

# Washington Homophobes Take Aim at Employment of 'Sexual Deviants'

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## Alternative Health Approaches to AIDS — *A Conference Report*







# GayCommunityNews

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*Tactic may backfire as coalition forms*

## Wash. Rightists Throw 'Deviants' to Voters

By Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

SEATTLE — The people of Washington are facing a coordinated right-wing attack against lesbians and gay men — an attack that also has implications for other groups. In September, the citizens of King County, which includes Seattle, will consider a referendum to overturn the county's Fair Employment Ordinance, which includes sexual orientation. Later, in the November general election, the state as a whole may vote on an initiative that would prohibit lesbians and gay men from working with certain "protected classes."

### The Referendum

The bitterly fought battle to pass King County's Fair Employ-

ment Ordinance (FEO) seemed to end last December 9, when the County Council passed the measure by a vote of five to four. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 27.) Three days later, however, fundamentalist opponents of the measure announced their intent to repeal the law through a referendum. King County is the largest county in Washington and one of the largest counties in the country.

The ordinance bans discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, and sensory, mental, or physical handicap. The law applies only to employers with eight or more

employees. Further, it covers only the unincorporated parts of King County, excluding incorporated towns and cities, such as Seattle. Seattle itself has had a gay and lesbian rights law since the late 1970s.

Concerned Citizens for King County (CCKC), a right-wing group composed largely of fundamentalist Christians, has done most of the organizing against the ordinance. It filed 41,000 signatures calling for a referendum on the FEO with the county clerk on January 25. This is well over the 25,552 signatures the county clerk requires to get a referendum on the ballot. The petitions were certified ten days later, and voters are now faced with Referendum No. 7. A

"yes" vote on the referendum would retain the FEO, while a "no" vote would repeal the ordinance. The referendum will be held September 16.

CCKC could not be reached for official comment. However, County Councilor Paul Barden, who claims he opposed the bill largely on religious grounds, and who supports its overturn, told *GCN*, "Government should not tell homosexuals that what they do is okay or approved. And government should not give special privileges to a group of people that practices water works [*sic*]. It should not single out a sexual perversion and exalt it." Barden went on, "Who are you again? I don't think I should be talking to you."

Barden and others calling for the repeal of the ordinance insist on calling it "the homosexual rights ordinance," even though sexual orientation is only one of the ten protected classes the law covers. The referendum affects the bill as a whole, and not only the provision on sexual orientation. Barden justifies this by calling the ordinance a "smokescreen for homosexual rights." He said that state and federal laws covered all protected classes, except gay men and lesbians, and that the repeal of the bill as a whole would not affect those classes.

"It's true that state and federal

laws protect the other classes," said another King County Councilor, Ron Sims, "but the real issue here is the county's commitment to anti-discrimination. I don't believe we can support bigotry in any way, including bigotry against gays." Sims questions CCKC's motivations: "I believe this is the base for an overall attack on gays and other groups. What we're looking at here is the test case. They're going after everybody with this." As basis for his question, Sims said that CCKC has announced that it is going after the "special protections" for gay men and lesbians "and all those other protected groups."

Lesbians and gay men, along with people representing the other protected classes, have organized the "Yes on 7" committee. According to Jim Holm, co-chair of the committee and one of the people who organized for the ordinance, the group is "multi-ethnic, multi-ability, gay and straight." Holm said that, given the virulence of the anti-gay/lesbian attack on the ordinance, the gay and lesbian community is currently more organized in support of the ordinance than are other communities, and that "tensions that usually divide the [gay and lesbian] community have been set aside for this. People are promoting a gay united front."

*Continued on page 3*

*'Lesbians deserve to be raped'*

## Lesbian Describes Attack in Rape Trial Testimony

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — As *GCN* goes to press, the trial of James Roberts, a man accused of raping a Boston area lesbian, continues. (See *GCN*, Vol. 13, No. 22.) The trial began March 4 in Suffolk County Superior Court with extensive questioning by the defense of alleged discrepancies between the lesbian's testimony at an earlier probable cause hearing and her testimony at the trial. Michelle, the lesbian, has asked *GCN* not to disclose her surname.

In response to initial questions from Assistant District Attorney Phyllis Broker, Michelle gave a detailed account of the rape, telling the court that Roberts had threatened her with a knife and raped her in the bathroom of a residence for homeless young adults where she and the defendant had been living at the time. Broker frequently pushed for explicit details, interrupting Michelle's testimony with the question, "What part of his body was touching yours?" Some members of the nine-man, three-woman jury held their heads, apparently disturbed by the account.

Michelle's sexual preference was disclosed in the first half-hour of the trial, when Broker asked if Michelle recalled a "conversation with the defendant about sexual identity." Michelle told of a conversation in which Roberts "asked me if I was a dyke. I said I was," continued Michelle, "and he said I lied to him and walked away." In later testimony, Michelle reported that Roberts said to her minutes before the rape, "Lesbians deserve to be raped."

Michelle's relationship with Roberts was questioned by Robert's lawyer, Ron Locke. Locke's first questions referred to the conversation in which Roberts asked Michelle if she was a dyke. "He asked you if you were a dyke," shouted Locke. "You answered truthfully. It bothered you that right after this conversation your friendship [with James ended]." Locke also questioned Michelle about why she never mentioned this conversation in the probable cause hearing held in the summer of 1985: "You never men-

tioned the conversation that so bothered you and changed your relationship with James Roberts [in the probable cause hearing]." Michelle responded, "No one ever asked me."

After a number of objections to Locke's manner of questioning, Judge Urbano told Locke not to shout at Michelle. She remained outwardly unflustered throughout Locke's questioning on the first day of the trial; a woman who wishes to remain anonymous told *GCN* she overheard Locke say to Roberts, "I'm not getting to her."

Focusing on other alleged discrepancies between Michelle's testimony given at the probable cause hearing and at the trial, Locke asked Michelle if Roberts had taken his pants off. Michelle responded that he pulled them down to the floor, but didn't take them off. Locke interjected, "When asked by the district attorney at the probable cause hearing, 'Did he have his pants on at that time?' [you responded] 'No, he took them off.'"

Locke also pointed out that at one point in the testimony, Michelle said the knife used by Roberts was one of the shelter's kitchen knives, while at another point, she said she had never seen the knife before the incident.

In other questioning by the defense, Locke spent approximately ten minutes asking Michelle why she refrained from screaming when Roberts entered the bathroom. "At the time he [Roberts] was saying [you know what I want'], you didn't scream?" asked Locke. "No," Michelle replied. "When he locked the door, you didn't scream then?" continued Locke. "I was scared," said Michelle. As Locke continue this line of questioning, Michelle continued to answer, "I was scared."

Also testifying before the court was prosecution witness Father Robert McMillan, a Catholic priest who runs the shelter. During Broker's questioning, McMillan appeared confused about a number of dates and incidents in question. He acknowledged that during the more than 24 hours be-

tween the time Michelle told him about the rape and the time Roberts was arrested, he did not talk to Roberts about the incident or attempt to take any measures to protect Michelle or other female residents from the alleged rapist.

*Continued on page 3*

*Dworkin/MacKinnon bill unconstitutional*

## Supreme Court Won't Hear Appeal of Anti-Porn Law

By Janice Irvine

WASHINGTON, DC — In a 6-3 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower federal court ruling that the Indianapolis anti-pornography ordinance is unconstitutional. The decision, issued without an opinion on February 24, "summarily affirmed" that the ordinance violated the First Amendment right of free speech.

The anti-pornography ordinance has been the epicenter of controversy within the women's movement since it was enacted by the city council in Indianapolis in April, 1984. Drafted by feminists Andrea Dworkin and Catherine MacKinnon, the law defined pornography as "the graphic sexually explicit subordination of women, whether in pictures or in words" that, among other things, depicts women as "whores by nature," or in "positions of servility or submission or display."

Chief Justice Warren E. Burger and Associate Justices William H. Rehnquist and Sandra Day O'Connor voted to hear oral arguments on the case, but four votes are needed to grant such review.

When the ordinance was enacted in 1984, the American Booksellers Association, comprised of approximately 5200 bookstore owners, filed a federal lawsuit to challenge it. U.S. District Judge Sarah Evans Barker, who had barred its enforcement, subsequently ruled that the ordinance violated free-

speech rights. Last August, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals upheld her ruling, stating that the ordinance discriminates on the basis of speech content. In the ruling, Judge Easterbrook affirmed that pornography must be protected under the First Amendment because "any other answer leaves the government in control of all of the institutions of culture, the great censor and director of which thoughts are good for us." He went on to describe the measures as "thought control."

Feminists have been bitterly divided over the issue as versions of the ordinance have surfaced around the country, including a referendum question that was defeated 3-2 by Cambridge, Mass. voters last fall. Supporters of the ordinance describe it as an innovative approach to help women who believe they have been harmed by the pornography industry. Opponents of the measure consistently have criticized the definition of pornography as too broad and too vague, and have condemned the law as a new mechanism that would be used to attack feminist and lesbian/gay literature.

Evalina Kane, the coordinator of New York's Women Against Pornography (WAP), told *GCN*, "The Supreme Court doesn't feel that the rights of women who have been hurt by the sex industry are worth taking the time to reach a new decision.... What they're telling us is that women really don't have a legal entry. The rights of

women aren't important. The rights of pornographers are more important.... I don't think this will be the end of it." Kane also noted that discrimination laws take a long time to change in this country and she said that WAP would continue with its present organizing against pornography.

Nan Hunter, of New York's Feminist Anti-Censorship Taskforce (FACT), said, "The ordinance, as a practical matter, is dead.... There's no way to salvage it in anything like its present form." She pointed out that the three justices who voted to hear oral arguments in the case are the three most conservative justices on the court. "I think that tells us something," she said.

Hunter told *GCN* that now that the ordinance battle is over, feminists can unite in opposition to proposals for repressive legislation that will be coming out of the Meese Commission on Pornography. "This whole ordinance battle has raised consciousness incredibly about conservative-backed proposals to ban so-called degrading imagery. I think we've learned a lot about the elasticity of the term 'sexual degradation.' Conservatives use it in lots of ways that feminists would like to protect," she said.

Andrea Dworkin and Catherine MacKinnon did not return *GCN*'s calls.

*— filed from Boston*



# News Notes

## quote of the week

"[U.S. Catholics are] so sensitive because they come from a democratic tradition and live in an authoritarian church."

— Rev. Diarmuid Martin, an official of the Pontifical Council of the Family, explaining his view of why more than 1,000 Catholics, most of them from the U.S., signed a March 2 New York Times ad affirming "solidarity" with 97 Catholics who had signed a previous Times ad asserting a diversity of opinion on abortion within the church. The March 2 ad strongly denounced Vatican "reprisals" against the original ad signers, including threats of dismissal from religious orders, dismissal from teaching positions, and cancellations of speaking engagements.

Of the 97 signers of the original October 7, 1984 ad, 24 were nuns and four were priests or religious brothers. In December of 1984, Cardinal Jean Hamer, head of the Congregation for Religious and Sacred Institutions, threatened to expel the 28 unless they publicly retracted their signatures. The four men did so, and according to the *Times*, at least seven of the nuns' cases have been closed by the Vatican. It is unclear what the terms of those cases are.

In response to the March 2 ad in support of "free speech" in the Catholic Church and in support of the nuns still facing expulsion, a group of conservative anti-abortion Catholics have called on the Vatican to carry out its threat to oust the dissident nuns. In a letter to Cardinal Jean Hamer, leaders of nine Catholic lay groups said nuns and other signers of the latest ad "are collaborating with the abortion industry to demolish the church's very right to teach. This goes for the jugular. Moreover, Catholics from 16 other countries have joined the attack. Among them are nuns. The revolt is spreading." The conservatives went on to argue, "Surely the time has arrived when the provisions of the church law must be allowed to take their salutary course."

Many of the nuns involved in the "revolt" have expressed anger not only at the Vatican's attempt to "frighten Catholics into being silent," but at what they see as the church's refusal to respect the rights of women religious.

— Stephanie Poggi

## dorchester int'l women's day

DORCHESTER, MA — The Dorchester Women's Committee invites you to its ninth annual international women's day celebration, Saturday, March 15, 6-10 p.m., at the Grover Cleveland School. "Crossing Bridges — an Evening of Entertainment and Enlightenment" features a cultural and resource fair, and entertainment by Watoto Wa Africa (Dini, Amefika, Sele Fana, Salim, and Hanisah Kamau-Zarris), Eritrean Women's Committee, Connie Breece, Women's Day Children's Theatre Group, among others.

A panel of speakers will also be presented, including Karen Schneiderman, member of Disabled People's Liberation Front; Linda Thurston, member of Blacks for Empowerment and coordinator of American Friends Service Committee Justice Program; members of Passage to Kenya; Nandi Kamau, representing the Dorchester Women's Committee; Sam Santiago and Kim Catrambone, "members of the younger generation"; and a representative of Women, Inc.

The Grover Cleveland School is located at 11 Charles St., Fields Corner, Dorchester. The event is wheelchair accessible by the entrance from the back parking lot, will be interpreted for the hearing impaired by ReaRae Sears and friends (call TTY 228-1054 for more information), and will be translated into Spanish as needed by Rosalena Melendez. Childcare will not be provided, but children are welcome. For more information, call (617) 288-2291.

— Stephanie Poggi

## first nat'l aids teleconference

WASHINGTON, DC — The first national teleconference on AIDS in the Workplace, co-sponsored by the Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. and Public Broadcasting Service, will be transmitted March 26 to more than 100 sites nationwide. The teleconference will be transmitted live from 1 to 4 p.m. EST from Washington, D.C. The event is designed to provide a forum for a comprehensive investigation and discussion of the legal and medical issues, public policy implications, and employer/employee concerns of AIDS in the workplace, and will bring together public health officials, attorneys, policy makers, insurance representatives, corporate and union officials, and lesbian/gay rights advocates.

Registration for the seminar is \$125 through March 7, and \$160 thereafter. For more information, contact Emily Pilk at (202) 452-4985.

— Janice Irvine

## in defense of jane

LONDON — *Jane's Defense Weekly* reported in January that Soviet-trained agents had infiltrated the Greenham Common Women's anti-nuclear camp west of the city. According to the *Boston Globe*, women at the camp, which is set up outside a U.S. military base where NATO is deploying 96 cruise missiles, dismissed the report as "a ludicrous, unsubstantiated slur."

The Soviet Embassy also responded, saying the British magazine's report was designed to "whip up anti-Soviet psychosis" and to "discredit...the British anti-war movement."

*Jane's Defense Weekly*, published by a firm that produces yearbooks on planes, warships, and other military matters, said three to six Soviet-trained women agents were in the camp area "at all times" since cruise missiles began arriving at the U.S. base in 1983. Quoting alleged Soviet defectors and informants, it also said that the agents had left Greenham Common, but were positioned to return at short notice.

— Stephanie Poggi



Stephanie Borns, director of Boston Women's Fund (l.), and recipients of '85/'86 grants

## boston women's fund announces grants

BOSTON — The Boston Women's Fund announced its '85/'86 cycle of grants to local women's projects at a presentation at the downtown YWCA on February 25. One of 25 women's foundations in the U.S., the fund is the only foundation for women in New England. It was established in 1983, and focuses in particular on projects by and for women of color and poor women.

Kip Tiernan, board member of the fund and founder of Rosie's Place, a shelter for homeless women, told audience members and grant recipients that she was "proud" to announce the grants to six local organizations "at a time when women's services are being painfully, cruelly cut." She added that she hoped the fund's grants could help "fight the grotesque systemic inequities heaped upon women — particularly poor women."

Also speaking at the grant award ceremony was Juanita Wade, past director of the fund and Boston School Committee member. Wade noted that in addition to providing grant money, the fund offers technical assistance to women's groups, helping them with fundraising and organizational development.

Receiving grants were: *Weatoc, Inc.*, of Dorchester, a community-based multi-racial education program, unique in that it employs teams of youths to teach sex education classes and give theatrical presentations on issues of sexuality; the *Khmer Traditional Healing Project of the East Boston Ecumenical Community Council*, designed by and for Khmer refugees in order to promote traditional healing practices, particularly those offered by women healers and midwives; *Women's Alliance, A Network for Economic Survival*, of Framingham, a multi-racial low-income women's group advocating for daycare, ESL, and public housing tenants' rights; the *Reproductive Rights National Network (R2N2)*, of Boston, a grassroots organization organizing around sterilization abuse, childcare, abortion rights, and lesbian/gay foster parents rights, with special emphasis on the ways restrictions on reproductive rights affect working-class and poor women and women of color; *Boston Women's Self-Defense Collective*, a group offering self-defense in community settings and workplaces, including Dorchester House, SEIU Local 509, Finex House, Transition House, and Chinatown's YES teen program; and *Traditional Childbearing Group, Inc.*, of Dorchester, organizing for the reduction of infant and maternal mortality rates in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

For more information about the Boston Women's Fund, call director Stephanie Borns, at (617) 542-5955.

— Stephanie Poggi

## dartmouth backs down on suspending rightwing students

HANOVER, NH — The president of Dartmouth College has effectively reversed the suspension order of 12 conservative students, who were found in violation of the school's student conduct rules when they destroyed several shanties on the college green, erected to protest investments in companies doing business with South Africa.

According to the *Boston Globe*, Dartmouth President David T. McLaughlin cited "procedural aspects of the [Committee on Standards] proceeding" as the reason to allow the students a new hearing with new panelists. Conservative alumni and national right-wing groups have provided financial support for the students and their independent newspaper — the *Dartmouth Review*. Most recently, the Heritage Foundation, a rightwing think-tank, organized a fundraiser in Washington on March 3, and raised \$7000 for the students' defense.

The week after the students destroyed the shanties in late January, classes were suspended for a day, so the student body and faculty could discuss what one faculty member described as "the problem of racism and violence here." Students and professors addressed the harassment, violence, and insults racial, ethnic, and sexual minorities have experienced on this traditionally conservative campus. Black students spoke of racial slurs; gay students described students urinating under their dorm doors. Previously, the *Dartmouth Review* had run racist satires directed toward Black people, and secretly recorded — and subsequently printed the transcript from — a meeting of the campus gay and lesbian group.

— Gordon Gottlieb

## legal rights of lesbians & gay men

STORRS, CT — A conference on "Legal Rights of Lesbians and Gay Men" will be held April 12 at the University of Connecticut Law School. The Connecticut Women's Educational and Legal Fund and the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights are coordinating the day-long event of speakers and workshops. The conference will cover issues such as AIDS and the workplace, adoption and foster care, non-discrimination policies, and relationship contracts. For more information, contact CWEALF at (203) 247-6090.

— Janice Irvine

## flying down to rio? fill this out

RIO DE JANEIRO — Health authorities here asked airlines carrying passengers to Brazil for Carnival to distribute anonymous questionnaires, which asked the passengers their sexual preference and their likelihood of exposure to AIDS, according to an article in the *New York Times*. Gay men from North America and Western Europe, who historically have flocked to Rio and Sao Paulo to participate in the festivities, were of special concern to the Brazilian Health Ministry.

Originally, health officials considered cancelling charter flights originating from U.S. cities with a high incidence of AIDS. The questionnaire was suggested as a compromise. Fifty thousand questionnaires were printed and given to airlines to distribute to all passengers over 18 who were flying to Brazil. Authorities maintained that no one would be denied entry to Brazil, and that education rather than screening was the principal purpose of the form.

Brazil ranks behind the U.S. as the country with the second-largest number of people with AIDS. The government has launched a major education campaign, which includes ads by a prominent soccer player urging sexually active people to be cautious with their sex partners and to use condoms.

— Gordon Gottlieb

## lesbian herstory archives funding drive

NEW YORK — The Lesbian Herstory Archives is marking the start of a major building fund drive with an evening benefit for women, Saturday, April 5, at Loeb Student Center, New York University. This event will feature a series of performances 7:30-9:30 p.m., followed by a dance from 9:30 to 1:00 a.m. The cost for the evening is \$10. Along with a raffle, refreshments, LHA t-shirts, buttons, and postcards will be available.

A button inscribed with the theme of the campaign, "'Our Home is Yours....Buy a Brick to Build It' — LHA Building Fund" will be given for every \$10 donated to the building fund. The goal is to establish a permanent home for the Lesbian Herstory Archives' rapidly expanding collections. For more information, call (212) 874-7232.

— Janice Irvine



## Pledge members make 'citizens' arrest'

# Lesbians Protest Contra Aid, March on CIA

By Kim Westheimer

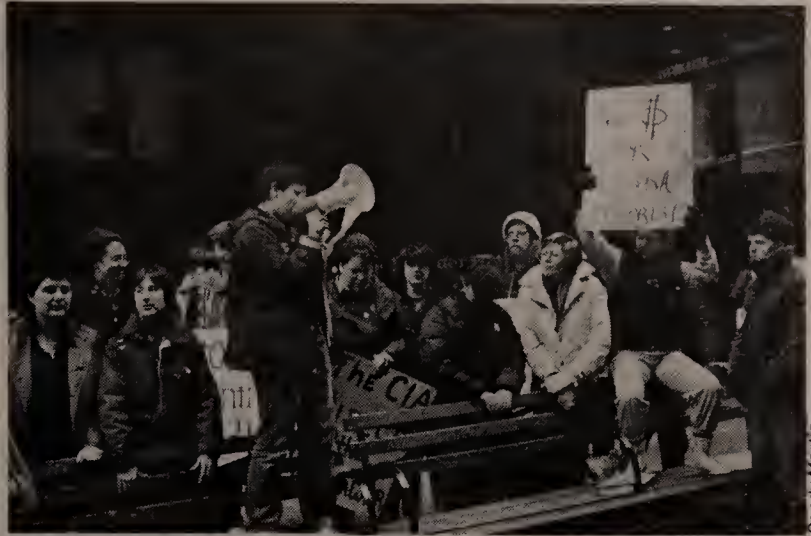
BOSTON — Lesbian members of the Pledge of Resistance, a national organization committed to blocking U.S. intervention in Central America, delivered a warrant for the arrest of Central In-

telligence Agency (CIA) employees who they charge with killing thousands of Nicaraguans. The March 3 demonstration by approximately 50 people, most of whom were lesbians, was or-

ganized as a response to President Reagan's most recent request for financial aid to the Nicaraguan Contras. Reagan has requested that Congress allot 100 million dollars this year, the bulk of that sum for direct military aid to bolster the Contras' "low-intensity warfare" against the Sandinista government.

According to Marianne Kirkbride, an organizer of the rally, the lesbian affinity groups chose the Boston office of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) as the site of the protest because "The CIA organized the Contras in 1981 and is responsible for their continued existence." Kirkbride added, "Most people don't realize that the CIA operates everywhere." The CIA's phone number is listed in the Boston phone book, with no address. The site of the demonstration was at 30 Winter Street, where protesters believe the local CIA offices are currently located.

Explaining to observers of the rally why the demonstration was taking place, lesbian activist Julie



Rally against Reagan-proposed Contra funding, March 3.

Ogletree said, "Today a group of Boston feminists will act to hold these [CIA] workers accountable for their actions, making a citizen's arrest, charging these men with complicity in war crimes, training and supplying mercenaries to fight the U.S. war, conspiracy to overthrow a popularly elected government, and misappropriation of our tax dollars in violation of U.S. and international laws."

Approximately 20 women tried to personally deliver the warrant to the CIA office which they believed to be on the sixth floor. After a short scuffle with security guards, they managed to get to the elevator. On the sixth floor they gathered outside a locked office door. It appeared that a code number needed to be punched into buttons of the door in order to gain entry. A camera installed near the ceiling filmed the demonstrators.

Ogletree talked to a man behind the door, telling him of the group's purpose. After he refused to open the door and suggested that the group mail the warrant, Ogletree taped the warrant to the door. Protesters left the building before the arrival of Boston police, who had been called to the scene.

Following delivery of the warrant, protesters continued to picket outside the building and

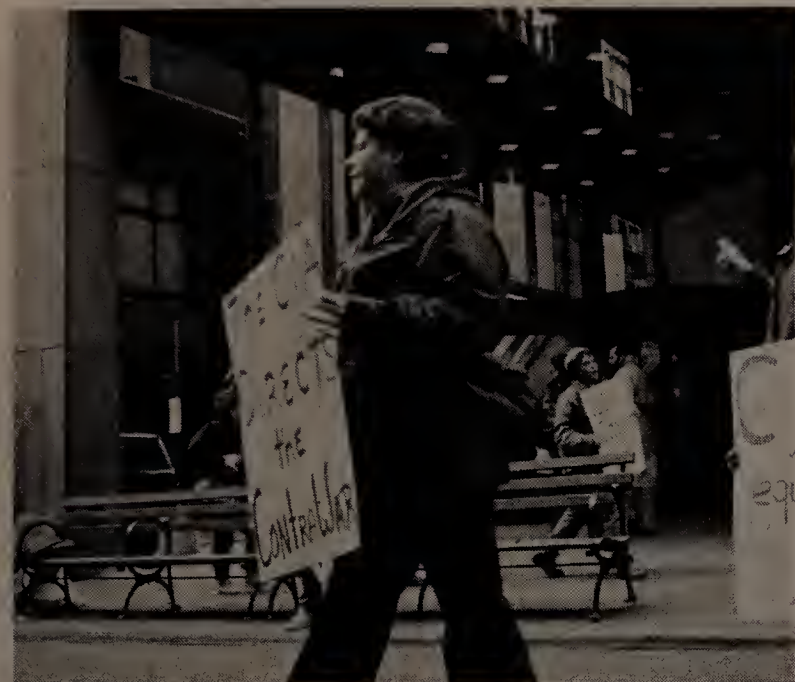
read the names of Nicaraguans killed in Contra attacks since the U.S. sent 27 million dollars in "humanitarian aid" to the Contras in 1985.

In related demonstrations, on March 1 the Pledge of Resistance organized a legal rally and march in Boston in which approximately 500 people participated; 110 members of the San Francisco Pledge of Resistance were arrested in a non-violent demonstration at a federal building in San Francisco; and New York's Pledge of Resistance is planning acts of civil disobedience for March 7.

The Boston Pledge is planning a response in the event of approval of Contra funding by either the House or the Senate. The March 3 action was meant to maximize the visible opposition to the request before either vote occurs, according to organizers.

Two House panels voted against Contra aid on March 5. The House Intelligence Committee voted 9-7 and the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere voted 8-5 against Reagan's aid proposal. The proposal must still be voted on by the full House and the Republican-controlled Senate.

For information about Boston Pledge activities, call (617) 547-3363.



Lesbians demonstrate against U.S. aid to Contras, March 3, CIA office at 30 Winter St., Boston.

## Wash. Right Targets Queers

Continued from page 1

Organizers are using a number of tactics to organize for the referendum. These include both electoral and grassroots strategies, such as a statewide gay and lesbian "leaders" conference sometime in June, and community meetings about the ordinance around the county.

Mary McKnew, of the Washington Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities, a member of the Yes on 7 Policy Committee, is working with the disabled community on the referendum. McKnew, who is disabled, said that the community is "beginning to get involved." She added, "A lot of the people in the gay community were not aware of issues around disability. We're making sure that meetings are accessible and sign language interpreted." She said the involvement of the disabled community is "pretty organic" to the group, and not a side issue or an afterthought.

McKnew also said that the ties between the disabled community and the lesbian and gay community go beyond unity in the face of the immediate common enemy. "There's always overlap between the two groups, but AIDS in particular is a disability issue," she said. "Many members of the gay community are now being treated like people with polio were during the polio epidemic. The fear and the rhetoric sound familiar to disabled people. Especially the part about 'You have sinned — this is God's punishment.'"

County Councillor Sims, who is Black, has been trying to get the Black community involved in the Yes on 7 campaign. By his own admission, though, he has had "great difficulty" doing so. He identified two reasons for this reticence among King County black people: first, "the Black community is extremely conservative, although the majority would probably support protection for gays." Second, however, "There's the perception that the white gay community is racist. The attitude is, 'Why help someone who's not helping us?' The white gay community can't come to the Black community and say 'help us' without dealing with this."

Sims also said that there is a common perception that the repeal of the ordinance would not affect the Black community. "No one believes it's an attack on them. But it's much bigger than they think. And we're starting to talk about it."

Sims and McKnew both think

the Yes on 7 campaign will succeed. Sims said that he expects the ordinance to be upheld by the referendum, because "people believe in fairness." McKnew told GCN, "The organizing is a real exciting process for everyone. I hope there will be a good effect from this referendum, that although it might get ugly, we all might start talking to one another, and there might be a net gain."

### The Initiative

On February 26, State Representative Glenn Dobbs, a Republican from Centralia, announced that he intended to place an initiative on the November ballot that would prohibit "sexual deviants" from working with certain "at risk groups" of people, including children, the elderly, the disabled, and prisoners. Further, the proposed initiative would repeal any state law, local law, or executive order that forbids discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Dodds' proposed initiative is the outgrowth of a series of anti-gay and -lesbian bills introduced this January in the new session of the state legislature. The Republican-sponsored bills, nearly fifteen in all, called for measures including the quarantine of all people with AIDS and the reinstatement of the state's sodomy law, as well as a bill similar to the proposed initiative. All the bills died in the Democrat-controlled committees of the overwhelmingly Democratic legislature.

Carol Gregory, of Democratic Governor Booth Gardner's office, said the initiative "is definitely an attempt to overturn the Governor's executive order," which, as of December 24, banned discrimination in employment in state agencies and institutions of higher learning, including but not limited to discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

According to the proposed initiative, "sexual deviants" would be prohibited from working, directly or indirectly, with children, the handicapped, the elderly, anyone in "state custody," or anyone in a "risk group population." The initiative explicitly states that gay men and lesbians may not be employed or volunteer in any "political entity" (that is, governmental agency) and in institutions including, but not limited to, hospitals, health care facilities, mental health hospitals and clinics, jails, prisons, half-way houses, juvenile centers, group

homes, resident crisis centers, foster care, day care, battered women's shelters, alternate resident placement facilities, "and other such facilities."

Further, the proposed initiative defines a "sexual deviant" as someone who sexually exploits or abuses a minor child, a handicapped person, or an elderly person, or any other person "at risk"; someone who uses child pornography or patronizes prostitutes; someone who commits rape; someone who engages in sado-masochism, bestiality, homosexuality, water sports, or scat; or anyone who uses an "object" (for example, a dildo) for sexual pleasure.

Should the initiative be passed, violation of it would be a "gross misdemeanor" under Washington law.

Washington's attorney general approved the language of the initiative on March 2, and assigned it a number, 490. Dobbs has until the first week of July to garner 152,000 signatures in favor of the initiative. Should he do so, and it is generally considered likely, the initiative will appear on the November ballot. Representative Dodds did not return GCN's calls.

Gay and lesbian organizing around Initiative #490 has just begun. The people with Yes on 7 are serving temporarily as a clearinghouse for information about the initiative. Gay activist and editor of the Seattle *Gay News* George Bakan said that organizing around both the initiative and the referendum will be an "awesome task," not so much because the gay and lesbian community is disorganized, but because it will have to mount two major campaigns in a short time.

According to Bakan, Dodds and CCKC are working together, and they are receiving support from right-wing groups around the state, most significantly from anti-abortion groups. He said the first contributor to CCKC's war-chest was the National Concerned Women of America, a group of women against abortion. He said, "My theory is that they [the right-wing groups] think if they kill us [the lesbian and gay movement], they'll kill the pro-choice movement, that our support is real critical to that movement. They can simultaneously break both movements by breaking us. And anyway, they are the same faces, the same people against us in both places."

— filed from Boston

## Thomas B. Crowley, Jr.

BOSTON — Thomas B. Crowley, Jr., of the South End, died Sunday, February 9, 1986 in the Massachusetts General Hospital after a brief illness.

Tom was born and raised in Albany, New York and had lived for the past 20 years in Boston. Tom had worked 12 years with the salon of Michel Kazan, and for the past eight years with the salon, L'Elegance, on Newbury St. in the Back Bay.

Tom was also an active participant in the fundraising subcommittee of the Boston AIDS Action Committee.

Tom leaves his parents, Gerald and Ellen Massago; three sisters, Grace Thayer,

Brenda Murighan, and Brynette Mathis; a brother, Gerald Massago; and long-time roommates, Bob LaFarge and Jason Clark. Tom's lover, Charlie Lewis, had passed away last year at this time.

A funeral Mass was said in Albany, New York on Saturday, February 15, 1986. A memorial service is being planned by his friends and will be held in the early spring in Boston.

Donations may be made in Tom's name to the Infectious Disease Research Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital, Fruit Street, Boston, MA 02114.

## Rape Trial

Continued from page 1

Also called to the stand by the prosecution were Kim Anderson, a volunteer at the Boston Rape Crisis Center whom Michelle called after being raped; Barbara Whelan, the executive director of Bridge Over Troubled Water, a multi-service center for runaways that works closely with the shelter; and Robert Tully, the Boston police officer who arrested Roberts.

At press time, the court had not yet heard testimony from people called by the defense.

## CORRECTION

A news note in last week's issue incorrectly stated the address and phone number for the Saints collective. The correct address is 45 Danforth Street in Jamaica Plain. The Saints can be reached at (617) 524-5245 or (617) 266-1708.



# Community Voices

*GCN* welcomes letters to the editor. If possible, they should be TYPED and DOUBLESPOCED, and where possible limited to five typed pages. They should be sent to: Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St. #5, Boston, MA 02111.

## more resources

Dear *GCN*:

Thank you for the large amount of space in the Feb. 8 *GCN* devoted to coverage of access to literature for blind and disabled people. I wish, however, that Warren Blumenfeld's article had been both less superficial and broad, and less minutely detailed. My feeling is that many of *GCN*'s subscribers have heard about some of the basics of discrimination against people with disabilities. Some of the aspects of this topic have been raised in *GCN* in the past. I think this article would have been more interesting and informative if, for example, Warren had asked the director of the National Library Service, Frank Kurt Sylke, why there have been so few gay and lesbian books, or how males have responded to recording feminist books? What is it like for those of us who have to listen to people reading things they are clearly uncomfortable with? The cancellation of funding for *Playboy* in Braille by Congress last summer deserves an article of its own. These are just a couple of suggestions for how this topic might have been explored in more depth.

The article also contained some glaring errors and is quite male biased. The books *Lesbian/Woman* and *Sappho Was a Right-On Woman* are *not* available from NLS, though they can be borrowed from Recordings for the Blind. In fact, there are barely a dozen fiction and non-fiction titles with major lesbian themes or characters recorded by NLS. This demonstrates one of the strongest reasons for the existence of the Womyn's Braille Press. The most significant error in the article is that the phone numbers for WBP are both over a year out of date. We can be reached at: (612) 872-4352 (office), or (612) 822-9439 (home).

I want to make it clear also that WBP is not an agency. Anyone interested in subscribing need not "prove" they are disabled. If someone has a 4-track tape recorder, they've had to go through that process to get it. All of our 200+ titles are recorded on 4-track cassettes. And though statistics may show a fairly small percentage of blind people in this country (or was it print-disabled people?), the majority of our subscribers (over 100) are Braille readers. Braille is an important means of reading for blind people.

We want to invite those interested in learning more about disabled womyn and our issues to subscribe to the Womyn's Braille Press newsletter. It is produced quarterly in print as well as in Braille and on tape. As well as updates on our activities and listings of other resources, we publish articles by blind and other disabled womyn on many topics. To our knowledge, this is the only newsletter in the country by and about disabled womyn. Subscription rates are sliding-scale, \$10-25 per year. Disabled subscribers can borrow literature from us at no charge.

Finally, I want to mention one other recording organization begun and maintained by blind people that was not included in Warren's article. The Our Right to Know Braille Press, Inc. produces a 4-track cassette quarterly review of the minority and radical press throughout the world. This quarterly, *Freedom Ideas International*, contains articles chosen from many publications and countries. These articles are concerned with freedom struggles currently taking place. *FFI* is a source of news about working people, people of color, women, gay people and young people. The OR-TKB also records the monthly newspaper *News and Letters*, a monthly Marxist Humanist publication. For subscription information or to request a sample copy, contact the Our Right to Know Braille Press, 640 Bayside, Detroit, MI 48217, phone (303) 824-1804.

WomonKindly,  
Marj Schneider  
Womyn's Braille Press  
Minneapolis, MN

## like to know everything!

Dear *GCN*:

I was reading this week's and last week's issues of *GCN*, and I don't know if it's me, or what, but there seems to be a lot of controversial issues being brought up lately. Is there something going on that I don't know about? (Ha Ha) I like to know everything!

What I mean about controversial issues is that you and the other people at *GCN* seem to hit all areas of what people stand for and believe and yet people are still complaining about what the paper contains or does not contain. Aren't they ever happy about anything? I can tell them if they were in here, they would certainly want to know everything about the outside and the current events "surrounding" them.

A prisoner  
Framingham, MA

## jewishness and masculinity

Dear *GCN*:

I read with great pleasure your recent editorial "Our Movement Is No Place for Jew-hating" (February 15). I applaud your initiative and sensitivity in writing it. I would like it to be more widely circulated. To that end, would you be willing to give me permission to reprint it in a forthcoming special issue on Jewishness and Masculinity of *Changing Men: Issues in Gender, Sex and Politics*, the men's movement major magazine? I have enclosed a copy of the call for papers I have issued to solicit contributions for the issue. Could I also ask you to help me to publicize the call by giving it whatever space in your newspaper you might be able to, and perhaps also either sending it on to people you know who might be interested in contributing or simply sending me the addresses of such likely contributors, whichever is easiest for you?

I want to thank you for your help on this issue. Should any of the members of your own editorial collective wish to contribute an article elaborating on any of the points made in the editorial, I would certainly welcome such a piece.

Sincerely,  
Harry Brod  
Assistant Professor, Program for the Study of Women and Men in Society  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA

## i saw the light — and left

Dear *GCN*:

Whew! That's quite some anti-semitic letter you printed from Emma Whitby. I've never met her even though she seems to live here in Philadelphia. How strange that she feels free to accuse Jews of genocide while ignoring the much huger amount of genocide done in the name of Christianity. A number of years ago, I sadly realized that yes, it *does* all trace back to Jesus, who said (and I quote): "None comes to the father but through me." And the rest is history, century after bloody century. I grew up a Christian and read the Bible over and over. Thank heavens I finally saw the light and left.

Actually, I have something else even more on my mind. I want to thank you (though with tears) for the lovely obituary of Carl Wittman. His life has much in common with my own (though I don't have AIDS — so far). A close friend of mine is currently on his deathbed, also one with years and years of liberation struggles. This past year the enormity of all this finally hit me and now I'm trying to do some small part to help fight AIDS. How many more do we have to lose?

I wonder if Emma Whitby feels at one with those so-called Christians who keep telling us that God is punishing us with AIDS.

Keep on keeping on.

Love,  
Jeff Keith  
Philadelphia, PA

## tribute to lulu

Dear *GCN*:

I'd like to give you kudos for the touching tribute to Lulu Couch. Unfortunately, the type of treatment described in the article is all too common to street people in every city. The writer presented the story very well. It drove me and a couple of gay brothers in the prison here to tears.

Thank you,  
James Bayt  
San Quentin, CA

## oppression not confined to the moral majority

Dear *GCN*:

I would like to express (somewhat belatedly) my support for the sentiments expressed in the "Speaking Out" piece on the "Americanization of Christmas" and specifically the lack of sensitivity to Jewish people around that holiday. Penned by Bonnie Wolf and Alina Ever in late December, the piece has been the focus of attack in the letters section since — including the rabidly anti-semitic letter you responded to in your editorial two weeks back.

Raised Catholic and in America, I agree with Wolf and Ever's sentiment that many Christians overlook the religious exclusionism implicit in generic Xmas marketing and so on. For those of us who do not claim a faith, those of us outside the so-called mainstream (read Christian) American tradition, Christmas can be a very alienating time. Differences do need to be acknowledged even if only by "Peace on Earth" sorts of yearly greetings but year-round, and more importantly, in recognizing others are of different cultures, backgrounds and beliefs. Oppression is not confined to straight Moral Majority supporters.

Sincerely,  
Marea Murray  
Allston, MA

## aural gratification

Dear *GCN*:

Limitations on access to supportive homosexual material may not be as profound as those hindering the blind, amputees, and those otherwise print-disabled, but there are many sighted people who can benefit from the kind of aural gratification Warren Blumenfeld documented in the Feb. 8 *GCN* (Vol. 13, No. 30).

He wrote a sensitive and informative centerspread about how disabled people are sheltered from important realities of diverse human sexuality. He listed mainstream and alternative sources of records and tapes for gays and lesbians who because of their physical disabilities cannot see or handle regular printed material. One of them, Radical Rose Recordings of Minneapolis, sells tapes to sighted lesbians as well.

I've discovered some other audio resources important to folks who are blessed with sight and working hands but are otherwise isolated from positive gay/lesbian books and reports — people in rural areas, those with poor reading skills, prisoners, and shut-ins, for example. These tapes also constitute interesting gifts, excellent background for study groups, worthwhile outreach for improving public libraries' collections, and alleviation from boredom during time-wasting routines such as housework, driving long distances, or daily commuting that can be enhanced with relevant reading.

With these tapes, the "Walk-person" phenomenon goes gay!

In three primary sources I've identified, the most politically-astute sells, unfortunately, the fewest gay/lesbian-related titles and, alas, the one with the most is the least politically-correct (by one standard).

Great Atlantic Radio Conspiracy's homophile productions are powerful, but not recent. GARC analyzes critical social issues from "a broad left/radical feminist" perspective. It recorded Black feminist Audre Lorde in 1980, documented the 1979 March on Washington, and earlier explored same-sex love and homophobic oppression. Latest (generic) offerings cover corporate crime, America's role in the Philippines, South African divestment, and Central America. A listing of current tapes is free; GARC's complete catalog costs \$1 from 2743 Maryland Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218.

National Public Radio's 1986 catalog of programs on cassette feature Edmund White, Michel Foucault, Alice Walker, Walt Whitman, Carson McCullers, Virginia Woolf, Willa Cather, Susan B. Anthony, AIDS, and in vitro fertilization, to name a couple of important topics. Call 800-253-0808 for the free listing of NPR's varied offerings.

Caedmon's cassette/LP record collection is the largest of the three, with authors, poets, and playwrights reading their own works in addition to volumes of older classics brought alive in studio and stage performances. Included are Jean Genet, Gertrude Stein, Noel Coward, W.H. Auden, Oscar Wilde, Thomas Mann, Tennessee Williams, and Evelyn Waugh. Write 1995 Broadway, New York, NY 10023. (Caveat: Caedmon is owned by Raytheon, a major defense contractor and defendant in a suit for firing an employee with AIDS.)

There are other outlets, of course. Listen for Pleasure, the first major company to record popular books, sells a few gay classics. Pacifica Foundation and National Federation of Community Broadcasters sell tapes of their radio programs and the Ravenshead productions shouldn't be overlooked. With NPR and offspring American Public Radio using a satellite, more public affairs programs can be taped at home for free off non-commercial stations. The visually-impaired qualify for a special tuner to pick up Radio Reading Service in and near major cities.

We need to press NPR, APR, RRS, and local stations to produce more programming about the gay and lesbian experience. Volunteers and donors should support efforts like Lambda Resource Center for the disabled, the Wilde-Stein Research Fund for Gay/Lesbian Studies at Ohio State University, and other archives that allow access to anyone.

The next time some homophobe puts us down for flaunting our gay/lesbian pride or questions our role in society, tell him to stick one of these tapes in his ear!

John Zeh  
184-601 3E  
OCI Box 511  
Columbus, OH 43216-0511

## GCN Book Review Quiz

**Q:** How often does *GCN*'s book review appear?

**A:** As the lovely Dee Michel wrote in the *Une Reader*, "every month or so" (emphasis added).

So...to those of you who noticed the absence of the February review: keep the faith, friends. It was a rough few weeks, but the review will be back in print by the end of March.

## GayCommunityNews

Cover design by Diane Harris

Cover photo by Debbie Rich

*Gay Community News* is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership. The paper is published weekly (except a week in December and a week in August) by the Bromfield Street Education Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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# Speaking Out

## A Blow to Research

By William Michaud

As a physician and lecturer/educator on AIDS-related problems, I'm pretty familiar with the current "state of the art." The other night, in a conversation with a friend, I was musing about the politics of research on AIDS. Not simply the problems of how and when the government — the major granting "agency" — decides to increase or decrease appropriations, but the ways in which "science" and scientists decide research priorities based on preconceived notions, personal taste and other agenda.

Certainly, excellent people around the world are conducting good and relevant research, but the questions suggested by our conversations were, "Who decides the content and context of research?" (i.e., whose interests and concerns are addressed?) And, just as importantly, "Are some legitimate concerns *not* addressed because of questions of relevance, breadth or morality?" (i.e., taste).

Research and science are value-laden and therefore not impartial. Significant research projects pertinent to non-psychiatric problems of the gay community, or those which are specifically designed to improve the condition of our community are rarely funded or published. Some of this results from the fact that most of our health concerns are little different from those of the rest of society. Surely, though, the old bugbears of sexuality and (God forbid!) sexual behavior act as indirect censoring forces. In our conversations we dwelt on the anxiety in our community fostered by a lack of certain information about having sex, and about how the true risk of activities like deep kissing or fellatio remains uncertain. These are matters that are near and dear to our hearts, and *our* hearts only. Having information like this would help people to contain their anxieties and better plan their course of daily living. The current ambiguities notwithstanding, I support, teach and practice safe habits but my *point* is that we're hardly likely to see a prospective study of blow-jobs and HTLV-III infections being funded by N.I.H., conducted by a consortium of major medical centers and published by the *New England Journal of Medicine*. What I *can* imagine is having a grant reviewer's coronary arteries in spasm at the very thought of funding such a proposal. Ain't no one gonna do it for us, honeys, but ourselves. Our agenda require that a number of these questions be answered to help us go about re-normalizing our lives. Some studies are underway, but at minimal funding levels.

So, what do we do? Since "the only remedy for powerlessness is power" (Charles Ortleb), I think we're going to need to take even more responsibility for our interests into

our own hands. I can see a few ways of doing this, but control over research funds themselves would be the surest. This should not be a new burden for the AIDS Action Committee but accomplished by others who have the time.

Taking a cue from David Scondras' idea of endowing scholarships for our younger gay brother and sisters, it's probably time for the establishment of a significant, endowed gay intellectual consortium with several mandates. First, to establish a multi-disciplinary committee to review regularly the expressed needs of our community regarding AIDS. Second, to determine research and other monetary priorities based on our interests be they in medicine, the arts, political studies or wherever. Third, to raise and invest funds actively through direct donations, bequests, grants, etc. to support possible projects. Fourth, to accept applications for funding of proposals and, lastly, to provide for reward of significant achievements by creation of "recognition awards," sort of a modest Gay Nobel Prize. To do any of this would take hard work, politicking and hitting dead ends but could go a long way toward strengthening our community. Eliminating our fear of lacking or losing funding and getting some direct control over the sources of information which affects us materially could result in a flowering of useful information for gay men and lesbians, increase our own sense of pride and provide an undeniable symbol of our power and presence in the world.

*William Michad is the by-line of an academic physician in Boston who is actively teaching and planning research around AIDS-related matters.*

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The GCN staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, GCN, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.



### Can You Stuff an Envelope?

Well then, we have just the thing to keep you off the streets. Friday evenings at 6. Do come by.

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### AIDS Resource List

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Education and support group for people with AIDS, their families, lovers, friends, and health care providers. Provides speakers, conducts forums, rap groups, hospice-trained volunteers, hotline information and referrals. Associated with Fenway Community Health Center.

**AIDS Action Line** — 536-7733 or Massachusetts toll-free AIDS hotline, 1-800-235-2331.

AIDS Action Committee service, information, referrals and befriending about AIDS.

**AIDS Hotline** — Community Infectious Disease Epidemiology Program, City of Boston, 424-5916.

Staff of public health nurses answer questions about AIDS, make referrals. Collects city-wide data from hospitals on AIDS cases, forwards data to Centers for Disease Control. Officially determines number of cases probable and under investigation.

**Fenway Community Health Center** — 16 Haviland Street, Boston, MA 02115, 267-7573.

A gay-sensitive health care facility. Hotline information, medical work-ups, diagnosis, referrals, counseling. Participates in research efforts.

**Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services** — 600 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02111, 542-5188.

Provides individual and group therapy. Groups available for friends and lovers of people with AIDS. (Services provided

without regard for individual's ability pay.) Counseling and HTLV-III blood screening services for individuals concerned with exposure to the virus associated with AIDS. Co-sponsored with Department of Public Health. (522-4090)

**Gay and Lesbian Hotline** — 426-9371, Monday-Friday, 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Provides information on AIDS, makes referrals. Associated with Gay and Lesbian Counseling Services.

**Haitian Committee on AIDS in Massachusetts** — 177 Harvard Street, Dorchester, MA 02124, 436-2848.

Provides information, referrals, support and emergency assistance to Haitians with AIDS and their families.

**Mayor's Committee on AIDS** — 709A Boston City Hall, Boston, MA 02201, 725-3307.

Coordinates efforts of federal, state, and city health agencies, produces educational material, collects data on cases, reviews policy. Umbrella organization. Media outlet. Conducts forums and provides speakers, distributes AIDS brochures, referrals.

**National Gay Task Force Hotline** — 1-800-221-7044.

Toll-free national hotline run by NGTF to provide information and referrals.

**Springfield Downtown Ministry/Council of Churches** — 293 Bridge Street, #205, Springfield, MA 01103-1402, 737-4125. Counseling and referrals.

### GCN Job Openings

**Typesetter/Writer** (available March): Typeset articles and other copy for weekly paper. Write news and/or features. *Qualifications:* Typesetting experience, pref. on Compugraphic Editwriter, and strong writing skills. Good knowledge of spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

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*Gay men/lesbians of color particularly encouraged to apply*

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# Naturally Helpful Homos

By Susie Day

Plumbers are in my bathroom. Two of them. Tall, manly men. I wonder if I should tell them I'm a lesbian. After all, I already know they are plumbers.

But it's different, I guess. They are plumbers because they are fixing my bathtub drain. That is why they are here, in my lesbian apartment. Plumbing is their societal function. If only gay people had a societal function. If only we could find a trade, lead useful lives, make a little money. Maybe then, people would like us.

I would knock on the door of an ordinary average housewife. She would call out, "Who is it?" and I would answer, "The lesbian."

"Oh, good. I've been waiting all morning. Come right in. My, what cute overalls."

I would fix her sink. She would try on my overalls. Then she would become a lesbian. Her husband — a plumber — would divorce her, and together she and I would start the Local United Lesbians Union (LULU). Our slogans: "Take Back the Pipes" — "Have Your Home Lesbo'd for Less" — "No waiting."

House by house, we would convert the entire neighborhood, offering reliable work at competitive prices. As marriages corroded and sewers unclogged, our Union would grow and prosper. Until somebody's ex-husband would come over to my place with his sawed-off shotgun and blow my head off. "I don't care how

reasonable your rates are: take away a man's plunger and you take away his self-respect." Blam.

Well. If our entry into the mainstream will be this threatening to heterosexual society, maybe we should cultivate our fear of success. Maybe gay people should go around doing good deeds for free. Being in, but not of, the System, we would be the first and the best

interposing themselves between mugger and victim. "Here! Stop that. This person didn't do anything to you. Mug me; I'm gay."

Little by little, heterosexuals would find the courage to believe in a truth they had long suppressed: gay men and lesbians are the kind of folks you can depend on and trust; real credits to their

## Members of the Praise the Lesbian Club would don tweed suits and go from door to door in pairs, spreading human dignity and handing out off our backs.

to rescue pregnant kitties from telephone poles, adopt children overseas, give up seats on the bus to tired straight people.

Roving, beaded bands of male sissies would approach people at airports: "Hi. We love everyone, but it's not what you think. Here's a daisy." Members of the Praise the Lesbians Club would don tweed suits and go from door to door in pairs, spreading human dignity and handing out off our backs. "We're not against the Family. In fact — we'd like to become part of yours. May we come in?" Lesbians and gay men would be seen around town in clean and modest garb, picking up litter and doggie nuggets off the street, and

preference.

"If you're ever lost, little Arnie, you just ask a gay person for help. They're the ones with the kind, moist eyes and the golden rings of light around their heads." People at church socials would turn to the occasional newcomer and ask, "You look like such a good person. You wouldn't be one of those nice homosexuals, would you?" "Well, no. But I'd like to be. I really want to do something with my life."

But, as usual, there would be the ones who go too far — the counter culture rad-libbers who screw everything up for the rest of us. Not content to leave well enough

Continued on page 11

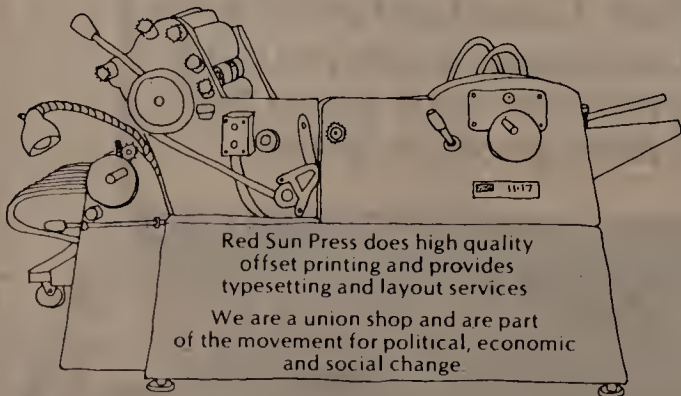
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## Peak Experience Poems

## Ginsberg Meditates on Death and Eternity

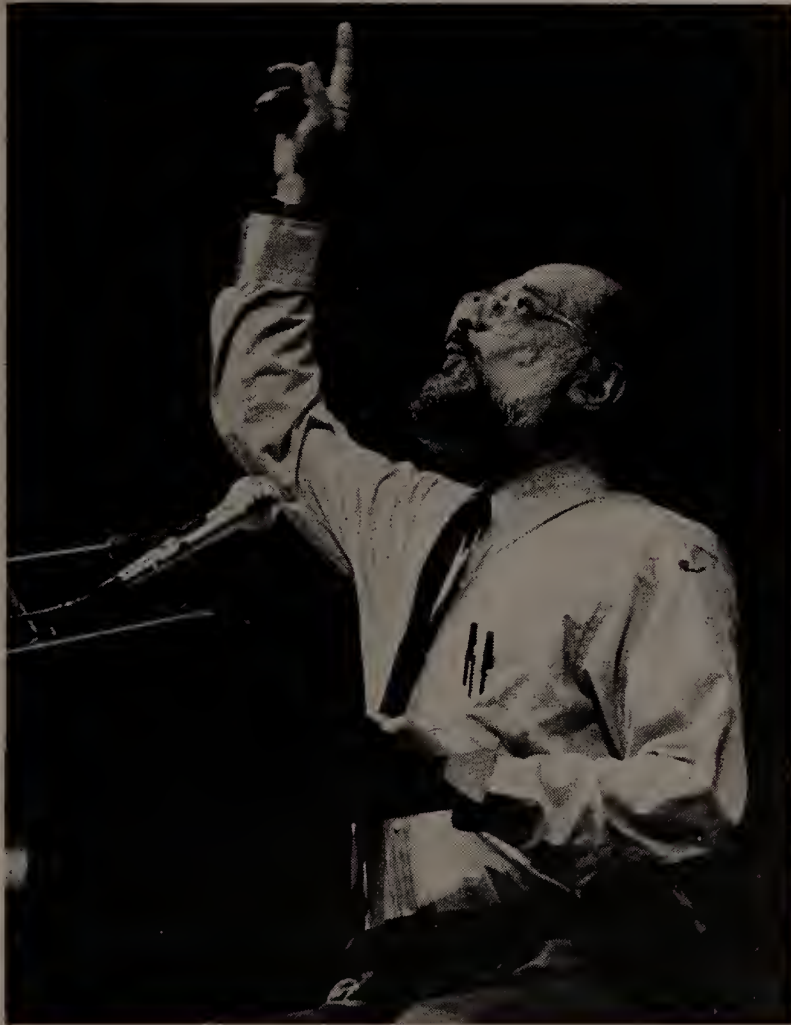
Allen Ginsberg reading from his work, accompanied by Stephen Taylor. February 20, 1986, Sanders Theater, Harvard and Radcliffe's Festival of Life, Benefit for AIDS Research and Care.

By Charley Shively

A Harvard/Radcliffe instructor ended his introduction of Allen Ginsberg by comparing the poet to Cicero; a more inappropriate comparison cannot be imagined. Roman defender of the aristocratic Senate, pompous lawyer and speech-maker, Cicero has nothing in common with the best-known gay poet in the world today. Both in his press conference and in his reading, Ginsberg made clear that he was a radical faggot; with his work he hoped to bring together Peace, Poetry and Buddha in support of his transforming vision of the world — a vision shared by poets like William Blake and Walt Whitman, but not by the pretensions of Ciceronian rhetoric.

The theme of the reading was the beauty, dignity, and glory of death. Reading for an AIDS benefit, Ginsberg said before the reading that frightening diseases were not new; his step-mother had explained that this was no apocalypse: she had lived through the 1957 polio scare, and his grandmother had died in the influenza epidemic of 1918. In the '50s, however, young boys weren't blamed for getting polio the way queers are scapegoated today. Although not new, the rightwing types may have developed a new virulence; Ginsberg labels Falwell an "inexperienced Bible salesman." What we need now is to put our own fears into perspective without falling into the psychic clutches of our enemies. Conquering our own anxieties will help our persecutors share the peace we can find.

In reading from recent poems, Ginsberg laid out and transcended some of his own guilts and anxieties. From a 1984 poem written in Shanghai, he sang "I feel guilty I haven't done more...worry I'll be punished for my carelessness." Grappling with his ego, his ex-



*Following his Buddhist creed, the poet calls for our transforming "waste to treasure; shit to roses."*

istence, the poet asks, "Why have I wanted to appear heroic?" In his "Prophecy," these doubts, greeds, anxieties are put away as Ginsberg exclaims, "Throw away useless ties and pants which don't fit."

Following his Buddhist creed, the poet calls for our transforming "waste to treasure; shit to roses." His transcendental vision would embrace everything and everyone. Reading from the *Plutonium Ode*, he takes on the universal challenge of nuclear waste and sets poetry against the madness of Star Wars. Written in Nicaragua and read there at the recent poetry festival, "The Little Fish Devours the Big

Fish" struggled to put life and poetry against the death forces of the U.S. CIA embattlements. Ginsberg passed out the petition from writers at the recent PEN conference, which denounced United States efforts to restore a Somoan-style dictatorship there.

The devastation of AIDS (perhaps spread by the CIA) needs

*Continued on page 10.*

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# Alternative Health Approaches to AIDS — A Co

By Jill Wolhandler, Kenneth Hale-Wehmann,  
and Read Weaver

What do you mean, AIDS is not necessarily a death sentence? Men with AIDS feeling good and enjoying active lives, years after diagnosis? People with ARC, so debilitated by fatigue, massive diarrhea, insomnia, that they can't work or play, recovering? Preventing AIDS, even in people already considered at risk for developing the syndrome? Without experimental drugs and damaging side effects? Some of it is free, fun, and I can do it myself? And I don't even have to give up my participation or belief in Western "scientific" medicine and become some sort of New Age crazy in order to benefit?

"Getting Well, Staying Healthy: A Holistic Health Conference for Individuals Concerned about AIDS" brought these questions out of the closet in a big way Saturday, January 18, at the Boston YWCA. Sponsored by the Alternative Therapies Subcommittee of Boston's AIDS Action Committee (AAC), the conference presented information designed to broaden our health choices. The overall message was that you can have an effect, a very powerful effect, on what happens to you. Practitioners of a number of different disciplines and therapies have experience working with people with AIDS and AIDS-related conditions. Alternative therapies do not always conflict with established medical treatments, although their holistic sources are radically different from the prevailing medical and popular beliefs.

While workshop presenters were explicit about not offering a cure for AIDS, session after session introduced approaches and techniques that are helping people. Many ease stress and feelings of helplessness, which can cause physical as well as emotional damage. Some can provide relief from serious AIDS and ARC symptoms, as well as decrease some of the disastrous effects of chemotherapy and other conventional medical treatments. A variety of workshops relating to diet, mind, movement, and body presented specific possibilities for improving the quality of life physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Some presented ways to strengthen the immune system and improve its functioning. Some also talked about providing a sense of peace and comfort for living and also for dying.

The opening addresses by Hara Klein, the coordinator of the Alternative Therapy Subcommittee, and keynote speaker Alex Forman of the Alternative Therapies Unit at San Francisco General Hospital set the tone of the conference. They discussed the benefits and successes of various therapies as adjuncts to Western medical treatment. The conference, they emphasized, was designed to expand the range of choices, not to criticize medicine.

Both speakers noted that alternative therapies share at least one thing: self-empowerment. Many workshops concerned self-healing, and even approaches requiring an extensively trained practitioner thoroughly involve the person being treated. Also, we rarely choose to be treated by an M.D.; that's just all that's available. Using alternative therapies is necessarily an active choice, and that in itself is empowering.

The conference offered 24 different workshops, several of which were repeated, in four time periods. Details on the workshops will follow. First, some general comments and criticisms.

The Boston YWCA is centrally located and parking is fairly convenient, but the building itself is inaccessible in a number of ways. It is not wheelchair accessible, and no one using a wheelchair attended. Inconveniently located restrooms and telephones, slow elevators, overheated rooms, and crowded conditions plagued hale participants; those with health conditions faced serious difficulties. Sign

Almost everyone at the conference was white. Since AIDS strikes a disproportionate number of people of color, there should have been greater efforts to make the conference attractive to more people. Perhaps the organizers could have co-sponsored the event with one of the organizations of gay people of color or publicized it among particular groups.

The conference served an important function besides presenting information: participants met other people with similar interests and learned about different approaches to AIDS and ARC. Jim Finguerra, who came from New York City for the conference, is a volunteer with Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) active in an innovative weekly exercise and dinner program. Around twenty people with AIDS gather in the afternoon. The program starts with two hours of physical activity and meditation. Participants learn such techniques as shiatsu, Swedish massage, and biofeedback. They take turns working with each other, applying and receiving the techniques. The emphasis is on self-maintenance — techniques to increase well-being that can be done for oneself or by someone else without extensive training.



Karate and Tai Chi workshop

Participants and volunteers eat dinner together, and there is live music. Persons with AIDS, Finguerra pointed out, often have no place to come together, discuss their situations, and share thoughts and information. The dinner program is designed to provide a time for that. At the end of the evening, people with AIDS are given a bag of groceries.

Another man at the conference, Alan Kuonis of Dorchester, was collecting information before deciding which therapies he would adopt to treat the Kaposi's sarcoma he was diagnosed with in May, 1985. He is in a treatment protocol involving interferon, but has come to be dissatisfied with the "cut and dried" approach of standard health care, where one goes in for a shot and that's supposed to do it. By contrast, he remarked on the sense of community that develops among practitioners and clients in holistic health.

He has used the visualization techniques taught by Louise Hay, who often works with persons with AIDS, and by Stephanie Matthews-Simonton and O. Carl Simonton, who are well known for using visualization in the treatment of cancer. Kuonis, who referred to his dietary background as "meat and potatoes," has recently given more thought to the macrobiotic diet, which had seemed "so foreign to me...I wasn't ready to make a commitment to it." Though he has "always hated to cook," Kuonis feels ready to make a change in his diet.

The conference came to a close with a half-hour-long ceremony in which two men with AIDS told of the help and hope they have derived from embracing alternative therapies. Peter Meic told of the time when he had pneumocystis carinii pneumonia. While he was on a respirator, the visualization exercises that he had been doing came back to him and helped him to recover.

The second speaker, Phillip Dross, was diagnosed eight months ago with Kaposi's sarcoma in the roof of his mouth. He noted that at first, "I entertained a little pleasure at the drama of my position — and fortunately a friend caught me at it." He had run a health food store some time ago, but had not had any contact recently with alternative therapies; "now," he observed, "my interest was piqued, to say the least."

When he first contemplated abandoning medical doctors, Dross said, he was in the "frightening position of rejecting this eminent doctor in this giant hospital and what he told me I should do." But he realized that he approached his appointments with medical doctors with dread — "I feel no hope there and I know they believe I'm gonna die real soon" — and felt "great joy" and loving community when he saw his acupuncturist, a nutritional therapist, and others involved in holistic health. Phillip Dross's cancer has now slowed its growth and he is living a better life for having made those choices.

Almost everyone who came to the conference stayed

all day and attended the closing remarks. There was a strong feeling of solidarity and hope as we sang a song by Jackie Foschia to bring the day to a close.

## Some Holistic Approaches to AIDS and ARC

Conference workshops were grouped into four general categories: nutrition, bodywork/medicine, attitude/mind, and movement. Many workshops offered principles and techniques that can be learned relatively easily and then practiced for yourself or performed on friends. Other techniques of self-healing were presented that require a significant amount of training from an experienced teacher or therapist. Therapies that have to be provided by trained practitioners were also presented.

We report on some of the workshops that the three of us attended. Our selection was guided by our own interests and does not represent all conference offerings.

Jean Hubbuch and Renee Hecht-Sperber both offered workshops on nutrition and immune function. It is increasingly clear that AIDS does not result solely from exposure to the HTLV-III/LAV virus; a variety of co-factors must be

present. In particular, an already weakened immune system seems a likely candidate leading to illness after exposure. Hubbuch began by discussing environmental factors contributing to immune problems.

The increased processing of food removes nutrients that help the immune system and introduces compounds debilitating to immune function. (Hydrogenated vegetable oil, or vegetable shortening, is one culprit.) The low but constant doses of antibiotics in animal products, and pesticides in many foods, tax the immune system. Alcohol and other recreational drugs lead to immunosuppression. Refined sugar has recently been shown to make white blood cells "sluggish." Prescription antibiotics drastically alter the biological makeup of the intestines, putting a strain on the whole body and the immune system in particular.

Another topic addressed in both workshops was free radicals, atoms that have had an electron removed so that they are likely to combine with other atoms, thereby creating relatively unstable compounds. Some suggest that some of the changes of aging, including reduced immune response, are caused by free radicals. Rancid and burned oils are the most common dietary source of free radicals. Exposure to positive ions from computer screens and other sources is one environmental producer of free radicals. An



A crystal demonstration by Ann Mappleback and Rick



Photos by Debbie Rich

## Learning breathing techniques

language interpretation was not provided.

The conference, with around 300 participants, drew a much higher attendance than any previous AAC educational event.

We were very pleased with the lunch provided, a varied and tasty macrobiotic meal provided by the East West Foundation that seemed respectful of as many different diets as possible. This was in marked contrast to food at other AAC conferences, which could not be eaten by anyone on a non-standard diet.



# ference Report

ioxidant vitamins and minerals, like vitamins E, C, and A and selenium, bind up free radicals, making them inactive.

Low-level food allergies are a surprisingly common and easy-to-miss source of strain on the immune system. Perversely, craving a certain food is one sign of an allergy to it. (As a result of this workshop, I've decided to see if I'm allergic to citrus. — R.W.)

The macrobiotic diet was a prominent feature of the conference's program, with two of five workshops on nutrition being devoted to it. Macrobiotics is a dietary system founded on the Asian principle of yin and yang, two complementary qualities of which all things are said to partake in varying degrees.

There has been controversy among lesbians and gay men about macrobiotics, since it is commonly reported that Michio Kushi, the guiding light of macrobiotics, believes that gayness is the result of a dietary imbalance. Kushi has been speaking and writing frequently about macrobiotics' role in improving the health of people with AIDS and ARC. He and his wife, Aveline Kushi, attended this conference.

Since May 1984 Elinor Levy and John Beldekas of Boston University have conducted a study of men with AIDS who are following macrobiotic diets, and they have documented some striking improvements in the men's health. In medical terms, they have observed a stabilization of T-cells and lymphocytes in 50 percent of the men.

In one workshop on macrobiotics, Alan Hadden and Anthony Muto gave presentations on alleviating and eliminating various, mostly chronic, health problems through the macrobiotic diet. Muto stressed the importance of having the guidance of a trained macrobiotics consultant.

Glenn Pflum taught Do In, a simple form of self-massage based on the Asian concept of energy pathways flowing through the body. Stimulation along these pathways in the direction of energy flow helps break up blocks caused by tension, injury, etc. Freely flowing energy increases life force, called *chi* or *ki*, increasing ability to fight infection. For persons with AIDS or ARC, this means more hope of staying free of the opportunistic infections that can cause death.

Like other forms of massage, Do In provides the physical benefits of stretching out muscles, increasing and enhancing circulation so cells can grow and repair themselves, and an opportunity to quiet down and rest. Massage also affirms that you are worth taking care of. Receiving massage from a trained therapist or from friends can be important, but it's great to have a massage you can easily do for yourself. Although Do In can be expanded, ten minutes here and there — when you get up, at work, when you get home too tired to make dinner — are all you need.

Accompanied by frequent reminders of "Remember, you are taking care of yourself!" we did the massage. It was simple and quick to learn. A brief handout eliminated will-I-remember anxiety. We felt lighter, looser, happier, freer to move and breathe afterward. Looking around the room, we could see the change in others as well. Hands down the best kind of workshop at the end of a demanding day!

Acupuncture has become more available in the United States, but there is still a lot of mystery surrounding it for most people. It is not easy for those of us raised in the Western medical model of disease to understand acupuncture because the Chinese approach to wellness is radically different. Some of us took a whirlwind tour of the subject, a workshop called "Principles of Acupuncture and Chinese Herbalism and Their Application in the Treatment of AIDS."

Four acupuncturists, in a very tightly organized fifty minutes, presented some of the basic Chinese medical concepts of how a human being functions. They also spoke about the degrees of success in treating the various ailments



rd Strange

included under the names "AIDS" and "ARC."

Terry Courtney, from the Somerville Acupuncture Center, began by emphasizing that one quarter of the world's population uses acupuncture as their main form of health care. The symptoms of a depleted immune system have been recognized and treated by Chinese medicine for thousands of years. Therefore, important clinical information is available to acupuncturists. Acupuncture should not, however, be seen as a cure for AIDS.

Acupuncture works by stimulating points on the body with needles (which are used once and thrown away when an infectious disease is involved), pressure, or heat. In treating AIDS or ARC, an acupuncturist can reduce fever and sweats, strengthen *chi* (one's essential energy), improve respiratory problems, increase resistance to inflammation and infection, make people calmer and less fatigued, reduce the nausea accompanying chemotherapy, and counter insomnia, all without notable side effects. Patients also report decrease of lymphadenopathy and diarrhea.

Later, Francine Rainone, a Boston area acupuncturist, said that since AIDS/ARC is a complex system of symp-



Gentle aerobics to stretch without injury.

toms that are manifested somewhat differently in each case, Chinese medicine approaches each case differently. She noted that Chinese medicine "looks for an overall pattern that describes the overall functioning or malfunctioning of the body." "Western medicine often comes up against a wall where Chinese medicine can solve the problem," noted Naomi Rabinowitz, who is trained as both a Western physician and an acupuncturist.

Both Rabinowitz and Ana Oliveira have worked with persons with AIDS and ARC for three years. They developed this work at the Lincoln Hospital Acupuncture Clinic in the South Bronx, New York. They have treated 200 people with AIDS and ARC. The South Bronx is an economically depressed area where many residents, faced with economic and social stress, are physically depleted — undernourished, weakened by drug use, worn down.

Acupuncturists at the Lincoln clinic most often treat substance abuse and ordinary aches and pains among the elderly, minorities, and poor people who live near the clinic. Rabinowitz said that persons with AIDS and ARC who come to the clinic tend to be white, middle-class gay men from Manhattan. She observed that the overall condition of these men is similar to many people of the South Bronx: depleted and fatigued because of personal habits and, to a lesser extent, social pressures (including homophobia).

Rabinowitz and Oliveira also emphasize self-maintenance. Patients are taught how to stimulate their own points through massage. Oliveira acknowledged the financial burden of formal, individual acupuncture treatments and suggested that one way to deal with this is to integrate the friends of a person with AIDS into the treatments, teaching them how to stimulate certain points.

Andrew Scarpulla presented a workshop on chiropractic and AIDS, focusing on a particular technique, Total Body Modification (TBM). TBM includes testing to find weaknesses in internal organs, and techniques to help strengthen them. Scarpulla and others have noted a common sequence of weaknesses in people diagnosed with AIDS, involving thymus, liver, and spleen.

Scarpulla was one of the few workshop leaders who openly criticized M.D.s and the medical model, pointing out the disempowering nature of medical treatment, and especially the practice of using immunosuppressive treatments on people whose problem is a suppressed immune system. In treating a man undergoing chemotherapy, Scarpulla is forced into alleviating the noxious effects of the chemotherapy, rather than working on AIDS itself.

Movement and exercise optimize health and well-being for persons with AIDS and ARC. Exercise, including stretching, increases circulation and mobility. Changes in

blood chemistry, including release of the body's natural pain control substances, endorphins, may improve the body's ability to deal with stress. Anxiety often decreases when you feel good. Energy flow, a basic concept in most non-Western schools of medical thought, is greatly enhanced.

Workshops on martial arts, yoga, polarity, and aerobics included activity as well as discussion. Leaders recognized the value of exercise, including breathing and stretching, appropriate to each person's health, strength, and mobility. Even those quite debilitated by AIDS and ARC can benefit.

Genie Shapiro taught gentle aerobics, avoiding the "no pain no gain" philosophy that keeps many of us away from exercise and causes so many unnecessary injuries. The workout was creative and fun, certainly something you can do at home or with friends.

It seemed that most people at the conference were already involved in alternatives to some extent, and not totally new to all these ideas. This conference might have been difficult for people who were unfamiliar with these kinds of approaches, especially if they were worried about

their own health and AIDS in particular. With the large amount of information presented in short workshop slots, time for discussion was extremely limited. There was no space for people to speak about their reactions or ask basic questions. One of the conference organizers said it would have been better to have several people available throughout the day for answering questions. Some who came to this conference overwrought left even more so, and confused into the bargain.

Missing from the program were workshops on homeopathy (a practitioner-centered approach that focuses on people rather than germs) and natural hygiene (a diet-based system), both of which are doing significant work on AIDS. There also could have been workshops devoted to Reiki body work, fasting, and healing imagery. We hope to see these and other topics (like "How to Tell Your Doctors You're Seeing an Acupuncturist Without Having Them Laugh in Your Face") at the next conference, which each of us looks forward to.



Do In self-massage stimulates circulation.

The Alternative Therapies Subcommittee grew out of a group of acupuncturists, chiropractors, body workers, massage therapists, macrobiotic consultants, and mental health workers who have been meeting for about two years. These practitioners offer their therapeutic services to persons with ARC and AIDS, many referred to them by AAC. No one is refused treatment because of inability to pay. For more information call the AIDS Action Committee at (617) 437-6200 or the AAC hotline at (617) 536-7733.



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## Ginsberg on Death and Eternity

*Continued from page 7*

the transforming power of love. To make use of our energies mindfully, aware not grudgingly of our beauty and powers, we must continue to share our loves. There is, according to Ginsberg, "no vast tragedy if you can't get your rocks off in someone else's mouth or

ass." The possibility of caressing builds up the possibilities of an "amazing aura." Ginsberg had found that many of the men he'd met didn't want a more orgasmic expression but can relate to him through the vibrations of sounds. Music itself as a highly charged

form of sexual intercourse, poetry and living protest needs still to be felt more deeply.

Stephen Taylor, who has been accompanying Ginsberg on the guitar for the last decade,

*Continued on page 12*

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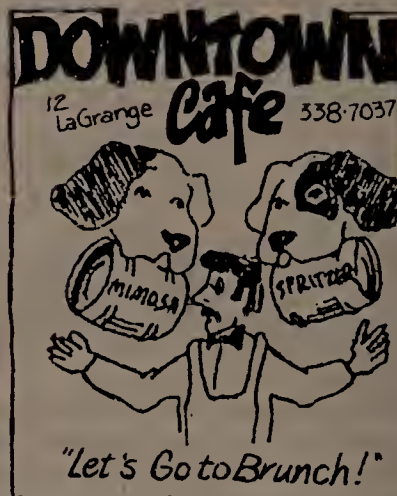
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# Naturally Helpful Homos

Continued from page 6

alone, they would work to eliminate racism, sexism, ageism, and low biorhythms in our time. They would find a way to replace the Stock Exchange with an Energy Exchange. They would use all their faerie magic to stop the arms race. And, you know — they might actually *do* it. Poverty, war, discrimination could just about cease. The earth would be in

danger of becoming green and free again. Naturally, these people would have to be killed.

"There's too much 'gaity' here, if you know what I mean," former officers of crumbling defense programs would mutter among themselves in abandoned fall-out shelters. "I can remember a time when men were men and women had to be feminine about it. Now everybody's feminine about

everything. We're being deprived of our God-given right to be brutal."

"Right on. Brutes are people, too. I'm beginning to feel — uh, whatdayacall — *oppressed*. Let's get 'em."

So they organize a big nostalgia campaign. And it works. People begin to recall how much fun it was to buy out small businesses and whistle at girls on the street.

They begin to blame *all* gay people — not just the rads — for the boredom of equality and liberation. Gay people accept the blame and wonder what is wrong with them. Straight people begin to find comfort again in God the Father. The Father tells them to get rid of the homos. It isn't a pretty sight. The world is restored to its natural order of begetting and betraying the begotten. That isn't a pretty

sight, either.

So here we sit, on all our potential for goodness and use in the world. Whether the world likes it or not, a little potential leaks out into our lives every day; homosexuality is no mere sexual preference, after all. And I will keep on keeping on with my quiet perversions. The plumbers will have to work it out for themselves.

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# Ginsberg on Death and Eternity

Continued from page 10

demonstrated a remarkable growth of his powers at the Sanders performance. Taylor now harmonizes neatly with Ginsberg's masterwordcrafts goat-horn, playing on his Indian sound box. With amazing smoothness, the guitarist's tenor resonates within Ginsberg's deep baritone. Taylor's *a cappella* rendition of a Fugs/Tuli Kupferberg number, "Just Like a Jail in the United States Army," sent chills up and

down the audience's spines. The alleged swing to the right on college campuses certainly hasn't rallied any enthusiasm for army enlistment or the draft.

Ginsberg carefully orchestrates his two-hour readings; in the first part he does popular, catchy numbers to pull everyone in; some movement pieces; and often some sly asshole/cock/sex references like the raunchy "Hard-on Blues." Then over halfway, he

takes a break, and those who just came to see what the freak show looks like can go home. After the break, the poet is left with a slightly more devoted audience, who are then given one of his peak experience poems.

The Sanders Theater evening was highlighted with a whole series of meditations on death — more often than not the death of heterosexuals — his father, mother, grandmother. Ginsberg

read poems from the death of his father about a decade ago and then added poems from his forthcoming book *White Shroud*, the title poem being an epilogue to *Kaddish*. The 1959 elegy written for his mother, *Kaddish* is Ginsberg's most powerful, deepest, moving and sustained work to date. His lament in the newly composed epilogue rings with a nobility and pathos as the fear of death disturbs us.

"The dead look for a home, but here am I still alive," the poet proclaims and searches among the gutted-out ruins of Newark, the Bronx, the streets of Manhattan, in search of the lady with rotting teeth, his mother, grandmother, the mother of us all — war, the bitch goddess success, madness, poverty, condo-conversion, homelessness — "what began as desire will end wiser." The new epilogue wanders among the ruins of war, anxiety, fear, cancer, lassitude, grouchiness, troubled kidneys, guilt, inadequacies, stuffy nose, bronchitis — first to find his grandmother/mother "too old to care or yell her grudge" and finally to pass out of his own monogamy of 37 years with Peter Orlovsky — a relationship for which the poet now uses the past tense. *White Shroud* ends with Peter in the poem: "I kissed him and filled my pen and wept."

Not to leave us on such a startling note, the poet ended with a rousing rendition of William Blake's "Nurse's Song," set to music by Ginsberg with a long continuing round of audience participation in "and all the hills echoed, and all the hills echoed." After an enthusiastic standing ovation from the well-filled house and an encore from Blake's "Tyger," the event ended. But the vibrations continued, and I left feeling strengthened, more enlightened and happier. As Ginsberg's father died, he read him Wordsworth; now as we face death we have Ginsberg's own "Sincerity is the key to living in Eternity."

Allen Ginsberg will read his poetry in Boston on Tuesday, March 18 at the U/Mass. Harbor Campus Faculty Club at 3:30 p.m. For directions, call (617) 929-8282.

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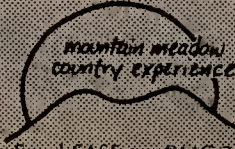
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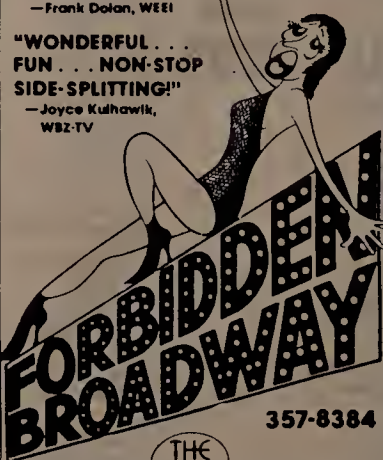
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All Roommate and Housemate Ads  
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Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted all day Mondays and Tuesdays till noon.

## ROOMMATE WANTED

Somerville Davis Sq. L32 seeks rmt 4 bdrms. No smoke, chemfree, quiet. Big apt, homey. 2 cats need a nice rmt. \$325 + 625-2376. Maryanne 4/1 (35)

1 M + 1F need 3rd roommate, independent, openminded, friendly individual preferred. Nonsmoker only, no cats or dogs. Quiet neighborhood, good location. \$350 per month incl ht utils xtra. Call 623-7258 ask for Gerry or Beth or lv message on machine. (34)

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JLF, LF + 1 (politically correct) cat seek mature, resp, progressive LF for 3 bdrm apt Davis Sq Som. No dogs. 99.4 chem free. \$200 +. 628-4165. (34)

LF and M seek someone (pref LF) respbl, prof, mature, fun & relaxed to share beautiful pondside JP house. No smokers, no more pets. \$228 + util. Avail 4/14 or sooner. Call 522-5461. (35)

### THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME

And I need one. L26 + cat looking to move into a dynamic and secure household with 1, 2, or 3 other women. Phone Judy at 965-5044 for details. For April 1. (35)

2 women, 1 Les, 1 Bi, sk 3rd woman to shr first fl apt in Watertown. 1 blk from bus to Hvd Sq. We are busy independent, interesting. We want a resp, 25-35 yo working woman. Mod alc/drugs. \$225 + 10 utilities. 923-0609. No cats. Avail April 1 (no joke). (33)

2 LF seek 1 LF for comfy 3 bdrm apt near Arboretum. Resp, clean, gd humord nonsmkr. Min alc/other drugs. No more pets. Avail 3/15, 4/1 \$275 + 524-1237. (33)

## ROOMMATE NEEDED

LF 25 seeks LF to share spacious 2 bdrm apt in W. Medford. Must be resp, prof, non-smkr. Modern apt, ww dw ds, nice neighborhood-must see! Have 2 cats, no more please! 300 + Call Jane 488-3202 Btwn 7-10pm. (36)

LF, 33 and 6 mo. old infant seek friendly LF roommate to share beaut. pondside JP apt. No drugs or alcohol. No pets. \$230 + utils. Julie 522-2626. (29)

Friendly, good-humored LF sks same 2 share healthy home. 2 bdrms, large kit. conv. to Grn & Org lines. I have 2 sweet cats. Sorry, no more. \$200 + 327-3193 (35)

Newton Ctr. Lesb sks rmt to shr 2 BR apt \$273/mo + utl Grt loc nr trans + off-st pkg-avl now-Christin 527-1552. Lv mgs or call tit 11pm. (35)

### BRIGHTON

2LF seek 2-3 LF to share apt. 25 + no cigs, must love animals but no more. pls. \$200 +. Call 254-1376. (35)

### ROOMMATE WANTED

Room available immediately in East Somerville. \$225 per month plus utilities. No smoke, no pets. Call 628-4912. (335)

3 Prof. LF sk 4th, 28 +, for wrm, indep hsehd in JP. Must be responsible & communicative. We live in huge apt in old farmhouse. Wood stove. Huge yard w/fruit trees. Driveway. Great neighborhood. Nr parks. 524-7390. (35)

Like living alone but can't quite afford it? Skg L28 + for 2bdrm apt. Share during summer (\$250 +), yours all week in academic year (\$380 +). No smkg, drugs, booze. Call Nancy 926-3474. (35)

3F Women seek 4th L/BI/het for lovely JP home. We are musical, sharing, indep, sense of humor, 30-35 yrs. \$275 +. 524-0424, 522-4219. (35)

## APARTMENTS

Dorchester - Elegantly detailed 4-rm apt in Jones Hill victorian home, avail for March occupancy. Modern kitchen/bath. lots of closet space. \$450/mo incl heat. Call Mimi at 265-0807. (34)

### DORCHESTER, MT. IDA ROAD

Huge 3br on Park in own. occ. bldg. Steps to T and Bookstore. \$575. Call 825-0965. (34)

JP near center and T. Two all new 1br apts on 2nd fl of owner occupied house. Each has new kt cab, disp, gas ranges, ww, cl fans, priv. porches. \$675-725 incl ht. Non smokers disc 522-1808. (34)

Dorchester - Fashionable Meeting-house Hill. Spacious 6 rm apt avail now on top floor of 3-decker. Cab kitchen, tile bath, some w/w carpet, VIEWS! Near T and shopping. \$600/mo. Call Mimi at 265-0807. (34)

Sunny 2 BR nr Orange line in JP. Porches, Grt view. Lots of Gays/Les in ngbhd. Quiet street. \$550 + util. 524-7390. Avail now. (35)

## APARTMENTS

### SUNNY APT IN DORCHESTER

Wanted quiet, clean, and honest tenant for 1 bd. Very near Ashmont Sta. Renovated completely. W/d, d/w, carpet, driveway, utilities. \$750 plus sec. dep. Avail Mar. 1st. 566-4193. (35)

### CHELSEA, 1ST FLOOR

Elegant 3 bdrms, 2 bathrooms, new kitchen, dw, disp, 2 fireplaces, hardwood floors throughout private court yard. Minutes to Boston on busline. \$750 n/u call 889-2955. (34)

## HOUSING WANTED

### 2 TERRIFIC DYKES

Both personally and as tenants, and our housebound dyke cat, need new home. 2 bdrms/5 rms, about \$550 htd. Prefer w/d hookups, lots of wood (floors, doorframes, etc) maybe a porch and/or yard, off street pkg. We want it all (or as much as we can get) and will take good care of it. Call Catherine at 426-4469 (GCN) or either Sara or Catherine at 391-3411. (C)

## REAL ESTATE

### DORCHESTER-SALE BY OWNER

Picturesque 7 rm victorian, 3 sunny bdrms, cntry kitch, walk in clos, newly strd din/lvg rms. Unfinished bsmt/attic. Short walk Ashmont T. Lv messge 825-0025 8am to 10pm. \$120K. (34)

## TRADING POST

### WOMEN'S BARTER NETWORK

Short on cash, but have lots you'd like to trade for your needs? Women's Barter Network is a non-profit, nationwide barter referral system for women and women's organizations/businesses. Send SASE for details to Women's Barter Network, Box 712, Wabash, Indiana 46992. (30?)

## FOR SALE

### 1980 MGB

Black 1980 MGB with custom hard top. Carefully maintd, body exc, no rust. Moving, forced to sell at \$6500. Call Gail at 926-9407 before 10pm. (38)

### WRITERS

Help GCN cover the culture beat all over the nation. Plays, movies, concerts, performances, we want the latest word on the newest creations from coast to coast. If you'd like to join GCN's team of volunteer reviewers, send a letter and writing sample to: GCN Features, 167 Tremont St., 5th Floor, Boston MA 02111. (C)

### TTY/TTD

Do you have or do you know of a new or used TTY/TTD device (telecommunication device for the hearing impaired) which would like a new home at GCN? Would you be willing to write a grant and/or work to fundraise for such a device to become part of GCN's office so that we may 'connect' with more of our readership? Call Catherine, 426-4469. (C)

## RESORTS

### BED & BREAKFAST IN N.Y.

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## GCN SPECIALS

Darlings, do you know computers? Better yet, do you know dBase III like it was your main squeeze? If you do, then GCN's Computer Committee needs to know you! Solve our problems and you'll get glory! Come to our meetings and you'll be charmed! How can you resist? Pick up that phone now, and call Marcos at 426-4469. (C)

### HELP!!! BOOKS!!!

Please consider sending or dropping by GCN(167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111; on the Common) your already read gay books (fiction or nonfiction). Prisoners really do get alot out of them and we'll be glad to send them in. Thanks. (We don't refuse donations for postage; but we'll be glad to get just books!). (C)

### CRUISE THE CAMPUSES?

Volunteer needed to bring GCN to area colleges. If you would like to "bring us along" to one or more college, call Catherine at 426-4469. (C)

## ORGANIZATIONS

### D.O.B.

Support orgnzn for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Cambridge, Old Bap Chr. Raps every Tues, Thur 8pm. Special raps for 35+; parents; yngr women; baby bmsr; singles; coming out; issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (?)

### LESBIANS

Are you Lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go? Come join us at BAGLY.

Call Tony, 497-8282

(13/32)

**BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER**  
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT Suite 140, 580 Castro St., SF, CA 94114. (v14.15)

### "JOHNNY DIED TODAY..."

14 year old Joey will blow out his brains, Eddie will overdose and David will slash his wrists in the days to come. All because you're too scared to protect them. SASE for info, \$2 stamps 64 page newsletter. \$20 subsc/mbrshp. "REALITY INC.," PO Box 73, Paramus, NJ 07653. (?)

### GAY LESBIAN AND JEWISH?

Am Tikva welcomes you. Activities include religious observances, discussions, potluck dinners, folk dancing, etc. For events, check GCN Calendar. Call (617) 782-8894 or write PO Box 11 Camb, MA 02238 (C)

### MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA—GCNAD at 537 Jones St. No. 8418, S.F., CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, NY 10018. (v.14.23)

### GAY CHRISTIAN SCIENTISTS WELCOME TO EMERGENCE

Seven groups of Chrisrian Scientists around the country share concerns about gay and lesbian rights. We publish a national newsletter and would be happy to talk with you about Emergence: Gay People In Christian Science. Write Emergence, PO Box 2547, Chicago, IL 60690. (34)

Circulation Department needs help updating the paper's mailing list. The volunteer position requires a commitment of a couple of hours per week, and a knowledge of or a desire to learn data input. If you're interested, call Marcos at 426-4469. Thanks. (C)

### PHOTO FANATICS

We still need folks to sort through and file old photos. Have fun and help GCN at the same time. Call Loie, 426-4469. (C)

### GCN VOLUNTEERS

Yes, you too can share in the power & glory & office drudgery! Correspondence, filling, phone calling, etc. Days preferable but some nights O.K. Call Loie at 426-4469. (C)

### HELP!!!

GCN needs another office chair (on wheels) or two. If you have one that you're not using, please call Mike at 426-4469. Thanks.



Dear Michael, THANK YOU!

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist.



Black lesbian seeking penpals from all over. My main interests are: music, sports, poetry, animals, knowledge and intelligence, nature and the outdoors. C.J. MCGREGOR, PO Box 7007, Carson City NV 89702

Shy young lesbian being held prisoner in Nevada. Will relocate for the right woman. I have lots of love in my heart. Anne ATKINSON, Box 7007, Carson City NV 89702



Very attractive T.S. is looking for friendship with people on the outside. Would like to hear from other TSs. Will answer all and can receive mail from other prisoners. Rick ("Cindy") BALKO, D-13160 L-121-L, Box 2000, Vacaville CA 95696

I love the outdoors, poetry, reading and writing letters. Am allowed to receive letters from other prisoners. Anyone who would care to write and share a smile in letters will be very much appreciated. I just don't like people who think they are better than others. Thank you for everything you do. Grover BECKLEY, Rt 1 Box 36, Jackson NC 27845.

Fem black male. Friends say I'm sexy, affectionate and playful. I'm also open, honest and sincere. Looking forward to complete sex change operation when I get out in a year. Would like to correspond with an open honest and sincere man in hopes of building a meaningful friendship. Thomas ("Tina") JEFFERSON, 402419 Darrington, Rt 3 Box 59, Rosharon TX 77583.

I am a fond reader of GCN and unfortunately my partner who got it regularly was transferred and I feel lost. Could you send me a copy, and could I have a penpal ad. My interests are sun, sand, snow, dancing & music. Petite, high strung and well hung. Michael WELLS, A-085975, Box 1500 (818), Cross City FL 32628.

Blk male, loves travel, reading and writing. Wish to correspond with sincere people. Jack SPURLOCK, 171445, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Would like to correspond with gay males of any age or race to make friends of quality character. Thanks very much. Robert Lee ANDERSON, EF-166918, 4600 Fulton Mill Rd, Macon GA 31213.

# Prisoners Seeking Friends

**OUTLOOK ON JUSTICE**, a prisoner support newsletter, published by the American Friends Service Committee, is looking for poems and short articles (on your experience as a gay/lesbian person in prison) for a special gay issue coming out (!) in March. FREE copy of Outlook will be sent to all who contribute something, whether their piece is printed or not. Send to: Outlook on Justice, c/o AFSC, 2161 Mass Ave, Cambridge MA 02140.



I'd like to make some new friends who enjoy writing and would love to write to persons who do art work in oil painting and in acrylic painting. I do art work in both of these. Amos BLAND, 076644 - 1570, PO Box 1100, Avon Park FL 33825

46 yr old gay male would like to have a penpal. Please write: Johnny POLLARD, 102701, Camp H 1-C, Angola LA 70712.

Fully gay male, petite and fem, interests are modeling, fashions, dancing, cosmetology, and seeking long lasting relationship with a true man. Steve DEVRIS, 880194 - 231, PO Box 1500, Cross City FL 32628

Am very sensitive and caring and would like to write all that are sincere. All letters will be answered, guaranteed! Am doing a fair amount of time and am getting tired of the heterosexuals in here! Douglas SPEAKES, 096730 - 235, PO Box 1500, Cross City FL 32628.

Seeking correspondence with other young males Presently very lonely and need to hear from someone who cares. Timothy MCCREARY, PO Box 100, Somers CT 06071

I'm extremely lonely and depressed in here and would like to find some gay companions/friends who would like to write. I ask no more than I'm willing to give; writing on a mutual basis for friendship. Floyd TEWELL, 4048, Box 41, Michigan City IN 46360.

### STAMPS!

Prisoners (and others): when you stamp a letter, the first ounce is 22¢, BUT after that each ounce is 17¢! Don't waste postage if you don't have to. Get some 17¢ stamps (or smaller ones to make up 17¢).



**Lewisburg Prison Project Bulletins** (descriptions of prisoner law, mainly for federal prisoners, compiled between 1983 and 1985) available on these subjects:

- ★ protective custody
  - ★ law libraries
  - ★ access to attorneys and paralegals
  - ★ medical care
  - ★ disciplinary hearings
  - ★ 1st amend: religion
  - ★ 1st amend: visits, rts of expression and association
  - ★ transfers
  - ★ Freedom of Info Act & Privacy Act
  - ★ Exhausting Admin. Remedies
  - ★ Detainers
  - ★ Correction or reduction of sentence
  - ★ racial discrimination
  - ★ 'special housing': PC, AdDet, DiscSeg
  - ★ Cruel and unusual punishment (8th)
- Write GCN Prisoner Project, 167 Tremont, Boston MA 02111 if you want UP TO 4 of these.



# CALENDAR

## March 8 to March 16

### 8 saturday

**Dorchester** — Cris Williamson & Tret Fure, with Tracy Chapman opening. Strand Theatre, 543 Columbia Rd. 8PM. \$9 & \$10 in advance, \$10 & \$11 at the door. Wheelchair accessible. Info: 547-1378.

**Arlington** — Album-signing afternoon with Cris Williamson & Tret Fure. Wood & Strings, 493 Mass. Ave. Info: Ed or Rick, 641-2131.

**Boston** — "Something About the Women" interview with International Women's Day 24-hour radio broadcast organizers. 91.5 FM. 10AM-2PM.

**Boston** — "After Eleven," two one-acts by Victor Bumbalo, presented by the Triangle Theater Company. Paramount Penthouse Theater, 58 Berkeley St. 8PM. \$10. Through March 22. Info: 353-0434.

**Providence** — *A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry. Art Ship Project, 36 Richmond St. \$6. Through March 22. Info: (401) 831-5640.

**Worcester** — Libana women's chorus with folksinger Priscilla Herdman. First Unitarian Church, 90 Main St. 8PM. \$7. Info: 395-1920 or 752-2019.

### 9 sunday

**Boston** — Benefit to Keep Margaret Randall in the U.S. Mass. College of Art, 625 Huntington Ave. 7:30PM. \$25, \$10. Featuring Margaret Randall, Crowsfeet Dance Collective (former Wallflower members), and music by Flor de Cana. Info: Committee, Box 2227, Cambridge, 02238.

**Boston** — Feminist fiction group looking for new members. 7-9PM. *The Changelings* by Jo Sinclair will be discussed. Info: Cathy, 282-2220 or Nancy, 489-3601.

**Cambridge** — "Hats Off to Jane," storytelling by Jennifer Justice about women heroes. First Church Congregational, 11 Garden St., Harvard Sq. 7:30PM. \$5, \$3.50 students & seniors. Info: 391-3744.

**Boston** — Metropolitan Community Church of Boston, a church of the lesbian & gay community. 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.

**Boston** — "Silent Pioneers," a benefit film screening for Legacy, gay/lesbian elders and their friends. Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 3-6PM. Info: 725-4907.

**Boston** — International Women's Day 24-hour radio program. WMBR 88.1 FM. Info: 876-5310.

**Cambridge** — Women's circle dance workshop with Libana and Forras Hungarian Dance Group. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 2-5PM. \$6. Info: 628-4404.

### 10 monday

**Cambridge** — MIT Colloquium on AIDS: panel presentation and discussion. MIT Room 10-250. 4PM. Info: 253-2983.

**Cambridge** — Gena Correa to speak as part of WITCH lecture series. Harvard Divinity's Sperry Room. 8PM. \$5. For women only. Info: 491-3549.

### 11 tuesday

**Cambridge** — Cuban & Chilean films featured in Harvard Film Archives' Women's Cinema series. Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts, Harvard Univ., 24 Quincy St. 5:30 & 8PM. \$2. Info: 495-4700.

**Cambridge** — Gloria Naylor, author of *Linden Hills* & *The Women of Brewster Place*. MIT Room 10-250, 77 Mass. Ave. 7:30PM. Info: 253-7894.



Robbin Evans, March 12

**Cambridge** — "Tips for the Entry Level Lesbian." Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. All women welcome. Info: 661-3633.

**Cambridge** — Betsy Rose to perform. Passim, Palmer St., Harvard Sq. 8:30PM. \$5.50.

**Boston** — Memories of a Lifetime: The Nairobi conference. Boston Network News, Cable Channels A3 and A8. 9:30PM.

### 12 wednesday

**Boston** — Community Networking Breakfast. Club Cafe. 8AM. Presentations by Robbin Evans, 1986 Pride Committee; Robert Barney, Boston Gay Men's Chorus; and Janet Putnam, Boston N.O.W. All welcome. Info: 265-0348.

**Boston** — "AIDS — Who's At Risk?" with Larry Kessler and Dr. George Grady. Bunker Hill Community College, New Rutherford Av., Community College T-stop. Noon. Free. Info: 241-8600 x417.

**Cambridge** — Feminist Discussion Group — topic: "Vulnerability." Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.



Michael (David Pannella) & Bob (Joey Branden) in Triangle Theater's *Kitchen Duty*, March 8 through 22.

### 13 thursday

**Boston** — GCN's production night: all welcome to proofread & paste-up pages. 5-7PM for proofreading, 8PM-midnight for paste-up. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

**Boston** — Gay Boston, a monthly TV magazine. Access A3. 8PM.

**Boston** — Amelia & Jennifer in concert. Somewhere Else, Franklin St. 9PM. Info: 423-7730.

**Boston** — Gay/lesbian pride committee planning meeting. 74 Joy St., Beacon Hill. 7:30PM. All welcome. Info: 391-3411.

### 14 friday

**Boston** — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

**Boston** — Poetry reading: Kate Rushin, Beverly J. Smith, Judith Rosenberg, & Oliva Espin. Emmanuel College, 400 the Fenway. 7PM. \$4 more/less. Info: 277-1330.

**Cambridge** — Nigaraguan Film Festival. Angry Arts, Cambridge YWCA, 7 Temple St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. \$2.75. Shown through 3/16. Info: 625-9279.

**Boston** — Am Tikva Shabbat service and Oneg Shabbat. 74 Joy St., Hill House. 8PM. Info: 782-8894.

**Cambridge** — "Intergenerational Relationships," a discussion for women 22 and under. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Info: 661-3633.

**Cambridge** — Lesbian/Bisexual coffeehouse. Adams House Lower Common Room, 8 Plympton St., Harvard Sq. 9PM-midnight. Sponsored by Harvard-Radcliffe Gay & Lesbian Student Association. Info: 498-6869.

### 15 saturday

**Cambridge** — "Individual Profile Writing Workshop" for lesbian singles. Daughters of Bilitis, 1151 Mass. Ave., Old Cambridge Baptist Church. 8PM. \$1. Newcomers welcome. Info: 661-3633.

**Cambridge** — Kaleidoscope, a group show & poetry reading. Rising Phoenix Gallery, 244 Columbia St. Reception: 1PM.

**Cambridge** — Self-defense workshops at Sanchin Women's School of Karate. 1-4:30PM. Info: 522-9821.

**Boston** — Dance at B.U. George Sherman Union (backstage), 775 Commonwealth Ave. 9PM-12:30AM. \$2 students, \$3 other. Info: 353-9808.

**Boston** — Boston's Gay Men's Chorus in concert: "Lights! Camera! Chorus!" New England Conservatory, Jordan Hall. 8PM. \$6-10. Sign interpreted. Info: 536-2412.

## note this!

*Parting Glances*, directed, written & edited by Bill Sherwood. At the Brattle Theater, Cambridge.

*Parting Glances* follows three young gay men — white, middle-class Manhattanites — through a crucial 24 hours in their lives. Michael (Richard Ganoung) and Robert (John Bolger) have been lovers for six years. Robert works for a big-time world health organization; Michael, a would-be writer, makes a living editing other people's manuscripts. The third man is Michael's long-time friend and ex-lover Nick (Steve Buscemi), a rock musician who is ill with AIDS. Robert is due to fly off to Africa for two years. In the course of the film, the lovers have dinner with Robert's boss and his wife, then go to a farewell party thrown by another friend; Michael visits Nick to bring him records and cook for him. Although there are confrontations and big decisions, the film is less interested in developing a plot than in describing and celebrating its characters' lives.

*Parting Glances* was the final film in this year's New York Gay Film Festival, where I found its lively, buoyant tone and positive picture of two gay men happily loving each other a much-needed balm, and where, amid a diverse array of films, its narrow social focus didn't trouble me too much. A second viewing confirmed the many pleasures, but also showed up some weaknesses.

The first pleasure is that *Parting Glances* is a film about gay men and their world, made by a gay man who really cares for the characters and their lives. Given the economic politics of commercial film-making in this country, getting such a film made at all is an astonishing achievement. The second is that Sherwood, in his first feature-length outing, shows real directing and editing talent: he has made a classy-looking movie on a very tight budget. (Credit is due cinematographer Jacek Laskus as well.) If at times the careful choice of visual detail seems too studied, I think it's because the script is a bit thin to support so much self-consciously "telling" detail.

Indeed, the major criticism I have is that the roles of Michael and Robert are underwritten; we don't learn enough about them to be drawn deeply into their few scenes of real emotional conflict. Here the script's failure to explore class, work, and money as elements of character is a big limitation. How does Michael feel about Robert making more money than he does? What kinds of tension does his writer's block inject into their relationship? In the absence of deeper character development, the film must rely heavily upon the physical appeal of Bolger's Ken-doll-handsome Robert and Ganoung's cute, bouncy Michael; both are undeniably pleasant and charming, but that's not enough to hold down the center of the film.

Fortunately, the no-bullshit character of Nick adds some needed grit, and Buscemi gives an accomplished and entertaining performance, the film's best. Sherwood certainly deserves credit for this, as well as for the unmaudlin handling of Nick's illness. I hope you'll plan to go see *Parting Glances*; even if parts of it are disappointing, it's a warm, well-made celebration of being a gay man in terrible times. And Buscemi's acerbic, vulnerable Nick will stay in your mind afterwards.

— Nicholas Deutsch

## Film Festival Entries

Deadline: April 15  
Entries sought for the tenth San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Film Festival: features, shorts, documentaries and videos by and about lesbians and gay men. 35mm, 16 mm, super-8 film; 3/4" and 1/2" VHS video.  
Frameline, PO Box 14792, San Francisco, CA 94114. (415) 861-5245.

Calendar compiled by Miranda Kolbe



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dinner for 2 at The Downtown Cafe  
new lesbian sex comedy video from Tigress Prod.  
2 haircuts from B. Cummings

1986 Gay/Lesbian Film Fest, 2 tickets  
Erotic in Nature video from Tigress Productions  
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For tickets stop by GCN or mail the form below to:

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